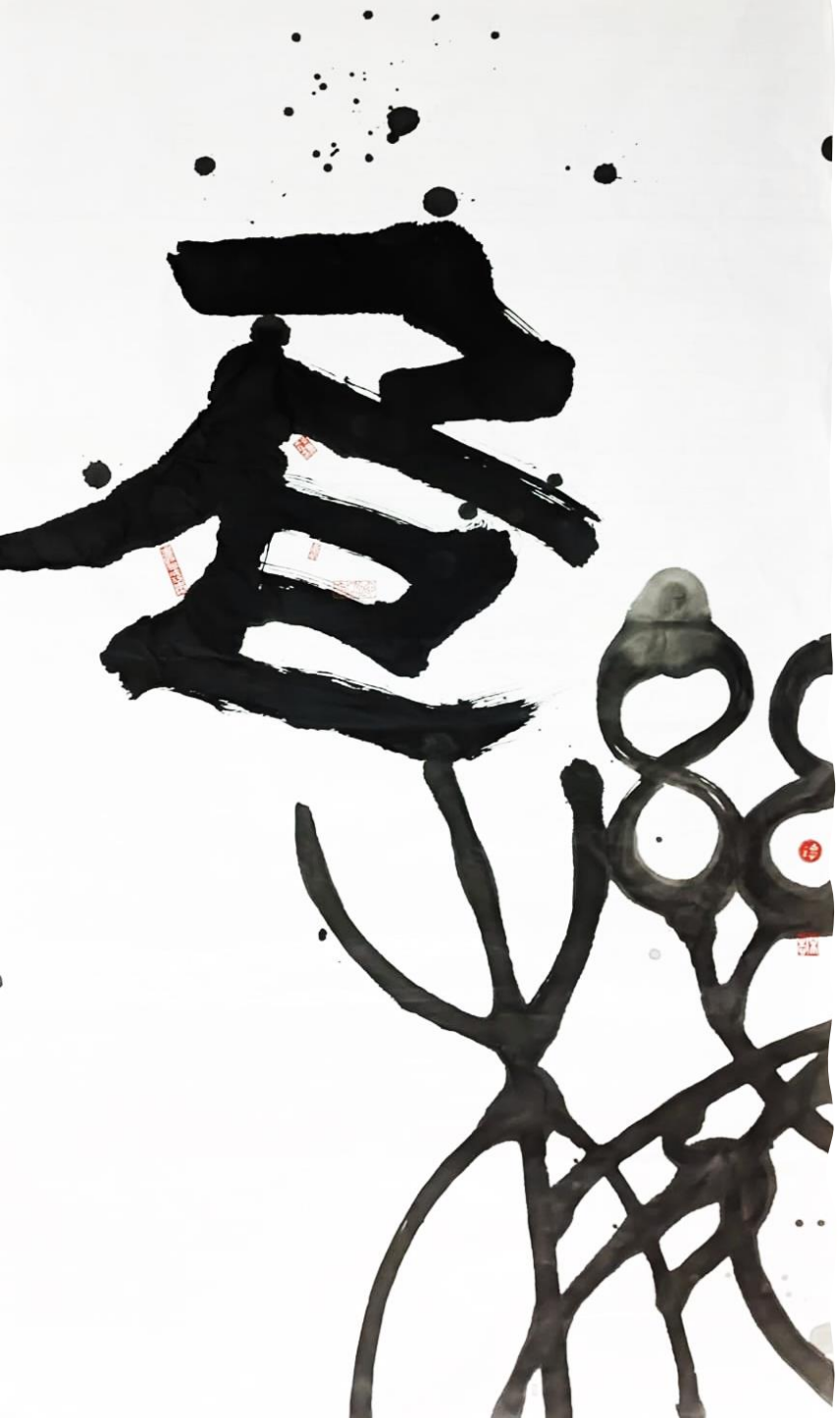


Ethics of Research in Conflict Settings

Joseph Tham, LC, MD, PhD 譚傑志
UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights, Rome, Italy
Faculty of Bioethics, APRA
Universita Europea di Roma
jtham@unescobiochair.org

Challenges of research in conflict settings

- Commonly in settings of
  - Developing countries
  - Political instability
  - Scientific capacities
  - Terrorist orgs
- Humanitarian organizations, NGOs
  - Priorities to aid first
  - Human resources limited
  - Personnel safety
  - Research capacities / tools / infrastructures

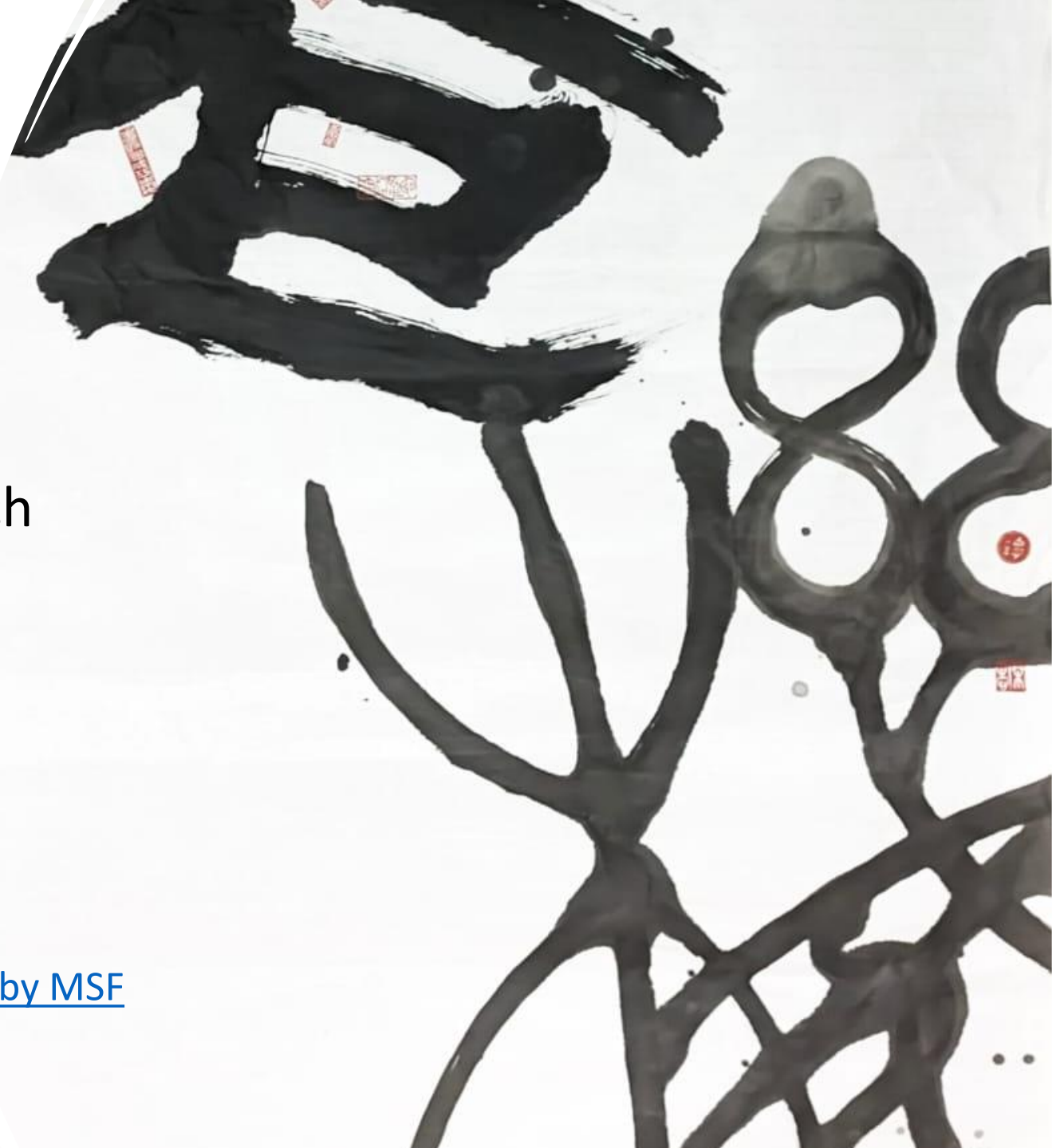
Really necessary? Justification of research

- Cannot obtain results otherwise?
  - Chemical warfare, trauma, bombs, etc.
- Health / humanitarian consequences of conflict
  - Statistics: Mortality, morbidity, malnutrition,
  - Effect on hospitals, healthcare, staff, etc.
- Feasibility and effectiveness of interventions
  - E.g., Food provisions, surgeries, psych intervention, medications, etc
- Valid delivery models
  - Evidence-based?
  - Food, treatments, etc.

Ethical concerns

- Necessity and feasibility of research
- Research Design
- Ethical review
- Informed consent
- Vulnerable groups
- Benefits to participants

Ethical framework for research: benchmarks used by MSF



Ethics of research in conflict setting

	Declaration of Helsinki (2013)	UNESCO Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights (2005)
Necessity of Research	16-18	14 Social Responsibility and Health
Informed consent	25-32	6 Consent 7 Persons without capacity to consent
Vulnerability	19-20	8 Respect of Human Vulnerability and personal integrity
Benefits to participants	8, 34	3 Human Dignity and Human Rights 15 Sharing of Benefits

DoH and Necessity of research in conflict settings

18. Physicians may not be involved in a research study involving human subjects unless they are confident that the risks have been adequately assessed and can be satisfactorily managed.
When the risks are found to outweigh the potential benefits or when there is conclusive proof of definitive outcomes, physicians must assess whether to continue, modify or immediately stop the study.

- Recruitment of participants, community involvement. Local culture and partnership
- Harm–benefit ratio
- Scientific validity

DoH 25-32 and Informed Consent in conflict settings

25 Voluntary
26 adequately informed
27 not dependent situations

Informed consent

- Extra vulnerable groups
- Threats to life, survival, family…
- Hidden coercion by authorities, military
- Incentives to participate (for safety and survival)
- Adequacy of research protocols
- Independence of reviews (from political influence)

DoH and legal protections

Problems:

DoH speaks of international human rights law, but the country's laws may not cover violations of the rights of participants in clinical trials.

There is not one exhaustive statute that prevents the government and the private sector from partnering with rogue states or abusers of human rights.

[Health, human rights, and the conduct of clinical research within oppressed populations - PMC (nih.gov)]

DoH and benefits of research for participants

- 8. While the primary purpose of medical research is to generate new knowledge, this goal can never take precedence over the rights and interests of individual research subjects.
- 34. In advance of a clinical trial, sponsors, researchers and host country governments should make provisions for post-trial access for all participants who still need an intervention identified as beneficial in the trial. This information must also be disclosed to participants during the informed consent process.
- 20. Medical research with a vulnerable group is only justified if the research is responsive to the health needs or priorities of this group and the research cannot be carried out in a non-vulnerable group. In addition, this group should stand to benefit from the knowledge, practices or interventions that result from the research.

Virtue ethics 德不孤必有鄰

- Do no harm 仁
- Proportionality 衡
  - Prudence 智
  - Justice 義
  - Fortitude 勇
  - Temperance 節

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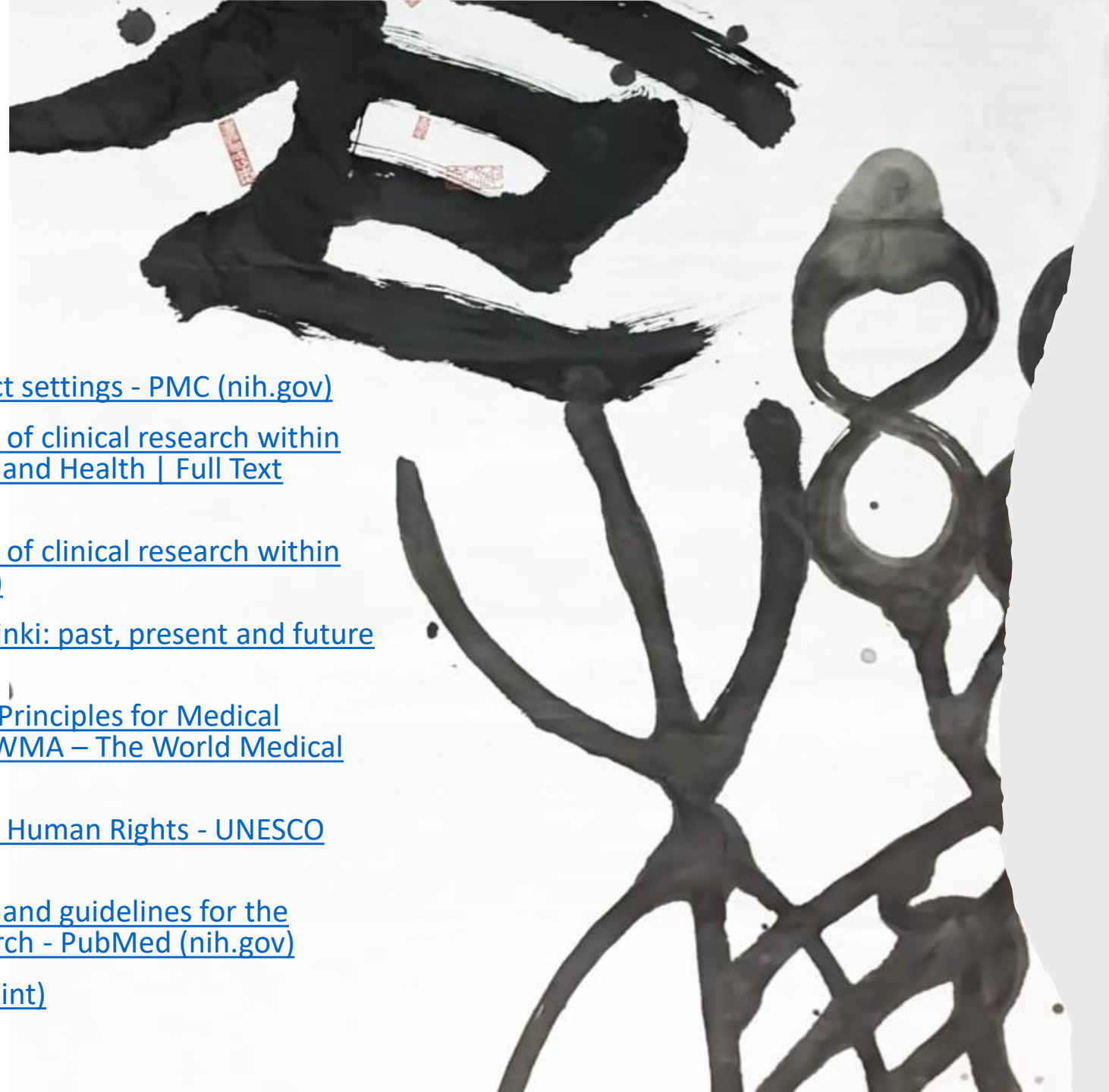

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