



Ethical Perspective of Translating Research

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NHMRC National Statement

- Respect for human beings
- Research merit and integrity
- Justice
- Beneficence

Underlying concept: respect and at all times, the benefits of the research must outweigh potential burdens and risks



Some questions

- Is the focus on translational research devaluing other research?
- What is the impact of being outcome focussed?
- Is the language appropriate?

“The problem with the translational ethos is not translation as such, but rather the nature of the source language and certain presumptions about outcomes. We all want results from our science, but too many questions – what will count as result, who will certify these and who is left out as a result of the choices – remain wide open”

Maienschein, Sunderland, Ankeny and Robert “The Ethos and Ethics of Translational Research’ (2008) 8 *The American Journal of Bioethics* 43-51, 50



Re-visiting the NHMRC Guidelines:

- Respect for human beings
- Research merit and integrity
- Justice
- Beneficence





...In some seas it is dangerous, indeed impossible, to just sail straight in the direction of the destination. For example, in low seas, one needs a precise map of the channels in between the sandbanks – and these channels can make the sailor first head in a very different direction compared to the track that is direct from an aerial view. If sandbanks move over time, [a goal] that was once reachable may no longer be within reach – or at least not until the sandbanks have shifted again..”

I.Robeyns, ‘Ideal Theory in Theory and Practice” (2008) 34 *Social Theory and Practice*’ 341, 345..

