ASHBi DISTINGUISHED SEMINAR

Ethics and Integrity of Developmental Biology Research: An Ethical Framework for Proposing, Review and Consultation

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The existing body of research ethics guidelines primarily focuses on ethical considerations in research involving human participants, particularly in clinical trials aimed at developing pharmaceutical products. While significant attention has been given to ethical aspects such as informed consent, privacy, and risk in these contexts, the ethical considerations specific to basic science research, including developmental biology, have often been overlooked. This paper tries to propose a modified ethical framework tailored to address the unique ethical challenges inherent in developmental biology research. This framework aims to provide researchers, research ethics committee members/reviewers, and research ethics consultants with a structured approach to navigating the ethical issues prevalent in this field. By exploring substantial ethical values and concerns related to the practices of developmental biology and their diverse impacts on human society, nature, and the biosphere, this paper seeks to highlight the importance of integrating ethical considerations into the research process. Furthermore, it underscores the necessity of upholding procedural values to ensure the integrity of the research process and the ethical governance of research institutions. Overall, this framework aims to fill the gap in existing research ethics guidelines by offering a comprehensive framework specific to developmental biology research, thereby promoting ethical conduct and responsible research practices in this vital scientific field.

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