

EDITORIAL

When designing a scientific study, many aspects are to be considered: possible contribution to the field of interest, questions to be answered, methods to be employed to adequately answer those questions and, most importantly, how ethics applies to your research model. A simple way to define ethics is 'norms of conduct' that help distinguish between what is acceptable and what is not. Those norms of conduct are well established in different areas of common life, such as school, church, community, sport rules, etc. In research, there is a subtle line that separates what is ethical from what is unethical, or what could be considered research misconduct. Ideally, ethical disputes should be clarified simply based on commonsense. However, in general lines, commonsense is formed by a group of experiences that an individual is exposed to. Therefore, interpretation of what is ethical and unethical varies significantly in an individual basis. This is why so many ethic rules are necessary in different areas of research. How to use animals in research, to collect biological samples, or to have humans as the subject of research. Nonetheless, on top of applying for an ethics committee to be granted permission to develop a research protocol (whenever needed), there are other reasons to comply with ethical norms in research. These aim to guarantee, for example, that only trustful data is published, as a way to ensure advancement in the research field. When ethical norms are used in a research collaboration, this implicates in having no conflict with authorship and copyright policies, for example. Last but not the least, developing research in an ethical basis guarantees that researchers remain liable to the public, which boosts patients' participation as well as public funding in research. Ethical dilemmas have been a growing reason of concern, and some federal agencies are now mandating that graduate students should receive specific training on research ethics. When someone is facing a conflict on how to proceed in an ethical dilemma, a valuable alternative is to ask a reliable third part for an opinion. Good luck!

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