

## The **Universal** Ethics View

**Science must follow universal ethical principles—honesty, integrity, and respect for human and animal subjects.**

This viewpoint argues for a set of fundamental ethical principles that should be applied to all research involving human participants, regardless of cultural or social differences. These principles provide a common framework to ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of those who contribute to scientific advancement. Foundational to this view are two key documents: the Belmont Report and the Declaration of Helsinki.

The **Belmont Report**, established in the United States, outlines three core principles:

- **Respect for persons:** This principle recognizes the autonomy of individuals and their right to make informed decisions about participating in research. It requires researchers to be truthful and to obtain informed consent from participants.
- **Beneficence:** This principle emphasizes the importance of maximizing potential benefits while minimizing possible harms to research subjects. Any risks involved in the research must be justified by the potential benefits to the individual or to society.
- **Justice:** This principle calls for the fair distribution of the burdens and benefits of research. It seeks to avoid the exploitation of vulnerable populations and ensure that the selection of research subjects is equitable.

The **Declaration of Helsinki**, developed by the World Medical Association, is another cornerstone document that provides ethical guidance for medical research involving human subjects. It has been revised multiple times to address emerging ethical challenges in the global research community. The Declaration emphasizes that the well-being of the research participant must always take precedence over the interests of science and society. It also addresses the ethical conduct of research, the importance of informed consent, and the need for public availability of research results, including negative or inconclusive findings. The Declaration is considered a fundamental document in research ethics, influencing national and international regulations.

Proponents of this view argue that universal ethical principles are essential for building trust in the scientific enterprise and fostering international collaboration. They contend that these principles provide a stable foundation for responsible innovation, particularly in sensitive fields like genetics and biotechnology.

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**From your perspective, what are the absolute, non-negotiable ethical lines that must not be crossed in this scenario? Which principles from the Belmont Report or Declaration of Helsinki are most at risk here?**