



The Issue of Human Cloning

UN at odds again, this time on human cloning
Agence France-Presse
United Nations, October 29

After Iraq and the West Asia, the United Nations is now divided again over another life-and-death question — whether human beings should be cloned in the name of medical research. Supporters say limited cloning could help treat killer diseases like AIDS while opponents argue the freedom to manufacture embryos in a laboratory opens an ethical minefield on the cutting edge of modern science.

The two competing visions will face off as early as this week if backers of “therapeutic cloning” push a vote in the UN General Assembly that will spell out society’s willingness to take the task of creation into its own hands. Costa Rica, the United States, the Philippines and more than 50 other nations, backed by the Vatican, want a worldwide convention banning all forms of human cloning by next year.

Their proposal says the cloning of human beings is “morally repugnant, unethical and contrary to respect for the person and constitutes a grave violation of fundamental human rights.” Lined up against them are Belgium, Britain, China and a sizeable minority of other nations which believe limited cloning “opens up prospects for the improvement of the health of individuals and mankind as a whole.”

Supporters of therapeutic cloning say their proposal safeguards the sanctity of human life but gives countries the latitude to police themselves and decide individually where the boundaries should lie.

Electronic Submissions Of Applications

www.sfu.ca/~dore/

Office of Research Ethics
www.sfu.ca/vp-research/ethics

SFU Policy R20.01: Ethics Review of Research
Involving Human Subjects
www.sfu.ca/policies/research/r20-01.htm

Variance of Informed Consent

The REB may approve consent procedures which do not include, or which alters, some or all of the elements of informed consent, or waive the requirement to obtain informed consent, provided that the REB finds and documents that:

- i) the protocol is minimal risk
- ii) the waiver is unlikely to adversely affect the rights and welfare of the subjects;
- iii) the research could not practically be carried out without the waiver;
- iv) whenever possible and appropriate, the subjects will be provided with additional pertinent information after participation; and
- v) the waived or altered consent does not involve a therapeutic intervention.

Educational Seminars

If you would like the Office of Research Ethics to give a talk to students about policy or process, or to discuss specific issues, please email the request to dore@sfu.ca. Powerpoint presentations and pdf documents of application procedures, policies and tips are available on disk for instructors and students.

Research Outside of Canada

Prior to approval, researchers must inform the Board what the legal jurisdictions are in the country outside Canada in which they are conducting their research and whether or not the researcher has received approval to conduct research in that country.

Lotteries

The Board agreed that it will review any application involving the offering of a lottery in excess of \$500.

Unintended Discovery of Data

If consent of subjects who are participating in the project has been given for a defined use of the data, the data may not be used for other purposes without the consent of the subjects. The REB may approve exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Research programs that require contact with human subjects whose regular occupational duties involve communicating with the public on behalf of their organizations, such as public relations officers, official spokespeople, diplomatic officials, etc., or the Chief Executive of an organization, ought not to require ethics review to the degree that answering questions posed by the public are within the ordinary occupational duties of the subject.

Similarly, researchers whose inquiries are referred to other members of an organization by public relations officers for the organization ought not be required to have their research project subjected to review, to the degree that their questions to such follow-on subjects are in keeping with their initial inquiry and the substance of the interview are attributable.

Interviews with elected officials ought to be exempt. However, only to the degree that such interviews touch on their ordinary obligations to communicate with the public and such an exemption ought also apply to declared candidates for public office.

The recommendation of the REB is to consult the Office of Research Ethics when there is uncertainty as to when ethics review is necessary.

Archiving of Approvals

A period of consultation with the Records Management Archivist established Records Retention Schedules for the Office of Research Ethics. The procedures are unique and have resulted from an analysis of what data is necessary from both a legal and historical perspective.

Field Courses and PDP

The Board must be informed of procedures by which student evaluations are established in Field and Professional Development courses, of the protocols to be used in these courses and any impact of protocols on children's normal classroom routine.

Ethics Approval of Thesis

Proposals

The REB recommended that the Director of the Office of Research Ethics confer with the Dean of Graduate Studies to develop a document to be used by all Supervisors, when protocols for studies involving human subjects are approved, confirming that the project has received ethics approval. The Dean of Graduate Studies is now in the process of consultation with respect to the implementation of this recommendation.

Student and Staff Collaboration on Faculty Projects

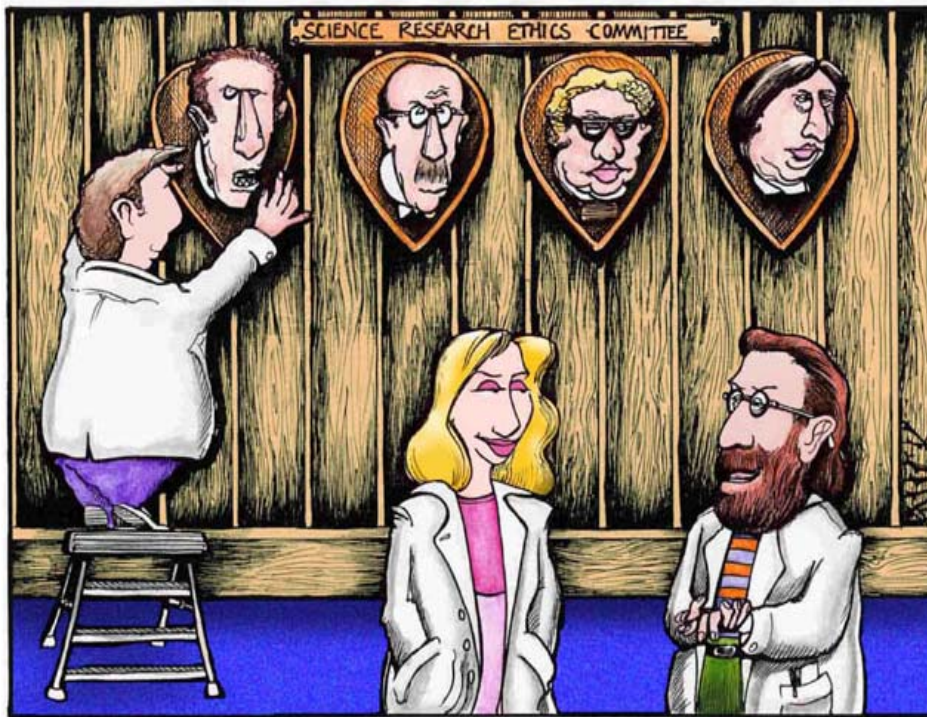
Students and staff who are engaged in research that is part of a research protocol that has been approved for the Principal Investigator (PI), at SFU, may be included as a collaborator in the PI's application. Collaborators may also be added, by the PI at any time before expiry of the term of approval. If the collaborator is a Graduate Student that student will receive a letter of approval for the purposes of documenting ethics approval of thesis research. If the title of the thesis project is different from the title of the approved project the student's supervisor must by letter approve that title as one that describes research that is part of the approved project. The supervisor, when adding a collaborator must also certify that the collaborator is aware of, and agreed to, the protocols that have been approved.

Approval of Con-Joint Courses

The REB agreed to include two courses in the same approval process when one course is for the collection of data and the connected course is for the analysis and/or publication of the data collected. This procedure was applied to student applications in Publishing 899–898 however a requirement for approval was that a formal internship agreement be obtained with outside organizations that are utilized in the protocols.

Monitoring of Projects

SFU policy requires that the Office of Research Ethics (ORE) monitors all projects that are in progress. ORE has developed an electronic monitoring form that is sent out automatically each year for non-



“There now. We get our wish of continuing our work unimpeded, and they get their wish of being in a position of direct oversight at all times.”

Intentional Deception of Subjects

Some experiments or project may requires that the subjects do not know the true intent of the study, or of the experimental variables. If deception is required the subjects must be given a true information document after their contribution is completed, and they must be given the opportunity to re-consent to the use of their data.

Documentation of Non-written Consent

The REB agreed that when there is no written consent statement, the researcher must keep a record of who agreed to participate as subjects. In focus group discussions, there should be a record of those who are discussing the subjects. In some discussions it may be important to get the agreement of all persons involved with respect to confidentiality and anonymity.

minimal risk projects. The form asks if the project is still in progress and whether there have been any significant change in the protocols that have been approved or in the personnel involved in the study. These forms are entered into the database that contains the approvals and other relevant information. It is important that these forms be returned electronically.

Maintenance of Records

Written or other forms of documented consent for minimal risk protocols must be retained by the researcher for a period of one year after the research has been completed.

Application Procedure

Note: Electronic applications are required and paper copy will not normally be accepted.

1. Applicants send an email to the Office of Research Ethics (dore@sfu.ca) requesting a code for the purpose of accessing on-line forms. Include a project title, your name, department or school within SFU, and if applicable, your supervisor name and short form e-mail address (jdoe@sfu.ca, not jane_doe@sfu.ca).
2. The Office of Research Ethics answers your email with a code and the web site address of the forms.
3. After completion of each form it is submitted as shown on each form.
4. When you have completed all forms that are to be submitted you send an email to dore@sfu.ca with the title and THE PASSWORD ASSIGNED TO YOU indicating that the electronic application is complete.
5. After the application has been reviewed the disposition of the application will be sent to your SFU email address in pdf format.
6. If students are applying for ethics approval the student's supervisor will be sent Form 1 and disposition of the application by email and asked to confirm that he or she has approved the application.
7. The Office of Research Ethics will close web access to your form.
8. An approval letter will be sent by Campus Mail.

Deadlines for Course Applications

April 1 for courses offered in Summer Semester
August 1 for courses offered in Fall Semester
December 1 for courses offered in Spring Semester

Research Ethics Board (REB)

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Short Term REB Appointments

Senate established the following policy on September 24, 2003. "In the event that a member of the Research Ethics Board is unable to attend its meetings, the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules has the authority to appoint a temporary replacement to act in place of the regular member until the regular member returns on until an election can be held".

ORE NEWS

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