It could be argued that all human subjects research is exploitation — research on one human is usually for the benefit of others. Ethics is the cornerstone of the attempt to make this “exploitation” humane, or otherwise to justify it. Economic, regulatory and cultural factors may make research in developing countries more feasible or attractive than in developed countries. Recent experiences and published commentaries suggest that the question of research in developing countries is as controversial as ever. The major question is how to balance the needs of science against the risk of exploitation.

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