Human-subjects research is regulated and overseen as never before. The growth of this regulatory framework sees law and ethics intertwined in an increasingly complex and intriguing relationship. The relative roles of the legal community, Congress and the clinicians who conduct clinical trials demand greater scrutiny.

Rina Hakimian, of the NCI’s Cancer Diagnosis Program, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, is working on a legislative survey of state and federal laws governing the use of human biological material in research. She previously worked for Israel’s Ministry of Health coordinating the national ethics committee (Helsinki Committee) on human genetic research.

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