Outsourcing, Offshoring and Oversight: The Challenge for Global Justice

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In a globalized economy, “outsourcing” and “offshoring” are normal business practices, and they have entered the world of clinical research. Close to 50% of all clinical research is taking place today in developing countries. Since the 1990s, there has been a vivid ethical discussion about such research initiatives. I argue that the practice of international research requires a redefinition of nonmaleficence and social justice in global terms. Moreover, these general ethical principles require further specification if they are to give practical guidance to research practitioners worldwide.

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