The Science Forest and the IRB Trees: Why Research Environments Matter

Jennifer L. Gibson, Ph.D.
University of Toronto

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Research ethics is often discussed narrowly as if it were only or primarily concerned with informed consent of study participants, risk assessment of study protocols, and the role and function of IRBs. However, research takes place within organizational environments and systems, which can either enable or hinder the ethical conduct of research. In this presentation, Dr. Gibson will explore how lessons learned about the influence of organizational ethics on patient care in health organizations may help to inform thinking about how to create ethics-enabling research environments.

Dr. Gibson is an Associate Professor in the Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation and Interim Director of the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto and its WHO Collaborating Center in Ethics. Her primary area of research is in health policy and organizational ethics with an emphasis on ethics infrastructure development, ethics integration in health systems and health care priority setting.

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