Dialogue 8

Clinical Trials in the Developing World

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12 Noon, Friday, May 19, 2000
Rosenstiel Building 6018  (Pharmacology Conference Room)

Controversy continues regarding the conduct of clinical research, especially with regard to HIV disease, in developing countries. A number of important questions have been raised: How best to obtain valid consent? Is it ethical to permit a different level of care, including placebo controls, than would be acceptable in a developed country? Do investigators have special obligations to their study populations? Fears that Western scientists may be exploiting subjects in developing countries have led some to suggest that research in those countries might constitute a form of “scientific imperialism.” These and other issues are the basis for strongly held differences of opinion and heated controversy among individuals of good will.

Dr. Mitchell, in the Division of Immunology and Infectious Diseases of the Department of Pediatrics, has been involved in HIV-1 related clinical trials in Miami, Brazil and Zambia as part of the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials and Fogarty International Center’s HIV/AIDS Programs.

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