



It is a sad and solemn occasion for us to have learned in the last few days of the death of Barry Smith, at Rotorua. To our delight, Barry had recently agreed to join AHRECS as a Consultant and added considerable gravity to our presence in New Zealand. We will miss him.

The Ethics of Evaluation Research

The question of how research ethics review processes should engage with evaluation research has not yet been definitively decided in many research institutions in Australia and New Zealand. Helen Kara's article alerts us to the degree to which evaluation researchers encounters novel ethical issues. We shall explore some of the possible institutional approaches in a forthcoming [Patreon](#) resource.

Evaluation research is used to assess the value of such things as services, interventions, and policies. The term 'evaluation research' makes it seem homogeneous but in fact

evaluation research draws on a range of theoretical perspectives and a wide variety of quantitative and qualitative methods. However, there are three things evaluation research usually does that set it apart from other kinds of research. It:

1. asks what is working well and where and how improvements could be made;
2. involves stakeholders; and
3. offers practical recommendations for action.

The American Evaluation Association (AEA), with members from over 60 countries, has [five 'guiding principles' which 'reflect the core values of the AEA'](#) (2018):

Systematic inquiry: evaluators conduct data-based inquiries that are thorough, methodical, and contextually relevant...

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REALising a collegiate Research Ethics Adviser network

By

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Our research ethics consultancy activity in recent years has involved us working with a broad range of research institutions. Despite diversity in size, budget, age, geographical reach and mission, in some respects institutions face similar challenges, frustrations and risks. In relation to research ethics, the recurrent themes that we have noticed include:

1. There being insufficient time and capacity to conduct professional development activities, especially activities focussed on the needs and experiences of schools, departments, research centres and research offices...

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Sage Methods Minute. January Spotlight: Research Ethics

[January's Methods Minutes](#), a monthly newsletter produced by Sage Publishing, is a special issue focused on social research ethics. It reviews two articles and one book from Sage's extensive collection on research ethics and also links to an article by Janet Salmons on the importance of [research ethics in an ethics-challenged world](#). Finally, it introduces a [video](#) of Mark Israel (AHRECS) discussing the importance of integrating ethical principles in the design of the project from the outset.

Conducting research with (not on) consumers in health - exploring ethical considerations

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3. Health service consumer.

Growing healthcare demands and limited resources raises concerns about the sustainability of practical benefits resulting from research. The Consumers' Health Forum of Australia and the National Health and Medical Research Council have developed a [Statement on Consumer and Community Involvement in Health and Medical Health Research](#) to better align the health and medical research with community need and improve research impact. However, the traditional research-to-practice pathway can result in findings that are not "[implementable](#)", which has led to the active recruitment of consumers' views in co-design of interventions. Consumers are now recognised as valuable knowledge resource to improve the relevance and translation of research into practice.

[Read more](#)

Australia Day honours recognise contributions to human research ethics

We wish to add our congratulations to two recipients of honours on Australia Day, Don Chalmers and John McNeil, who have made important contributions to human research ethics in Australia over the last 35 years.

Distinguished [Prof. Don Chalmers](#) was chair of the Australian Health Ethics Committee (AHEC) from 1994 to 2000. During this time he, together with Regis Mary Dunne AO, conducted a national review of the role and functioning of institutional ethics committees which led directly to the first National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans in 1999.

The 1999 *National Statement* replaced the 1966 NHMRC one-page *Statement on Human Experimentation* to which numerous supplementary notes had been added across three decades. The 1999 document was a significant landmark in human research ethics in Australia, not only because it brought that NHMRC history together but also because it was endorsed by the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee, the Australian Research Council.

The Australian Academies of the Humanities, Science and Social Sciences also endorsed the Statement and it was supported by the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. As a member of AHEC in 1998-99, I remember how Don led these initiatives and negotiations with characteristic diplomacy, tact and good humour.

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While you are here...

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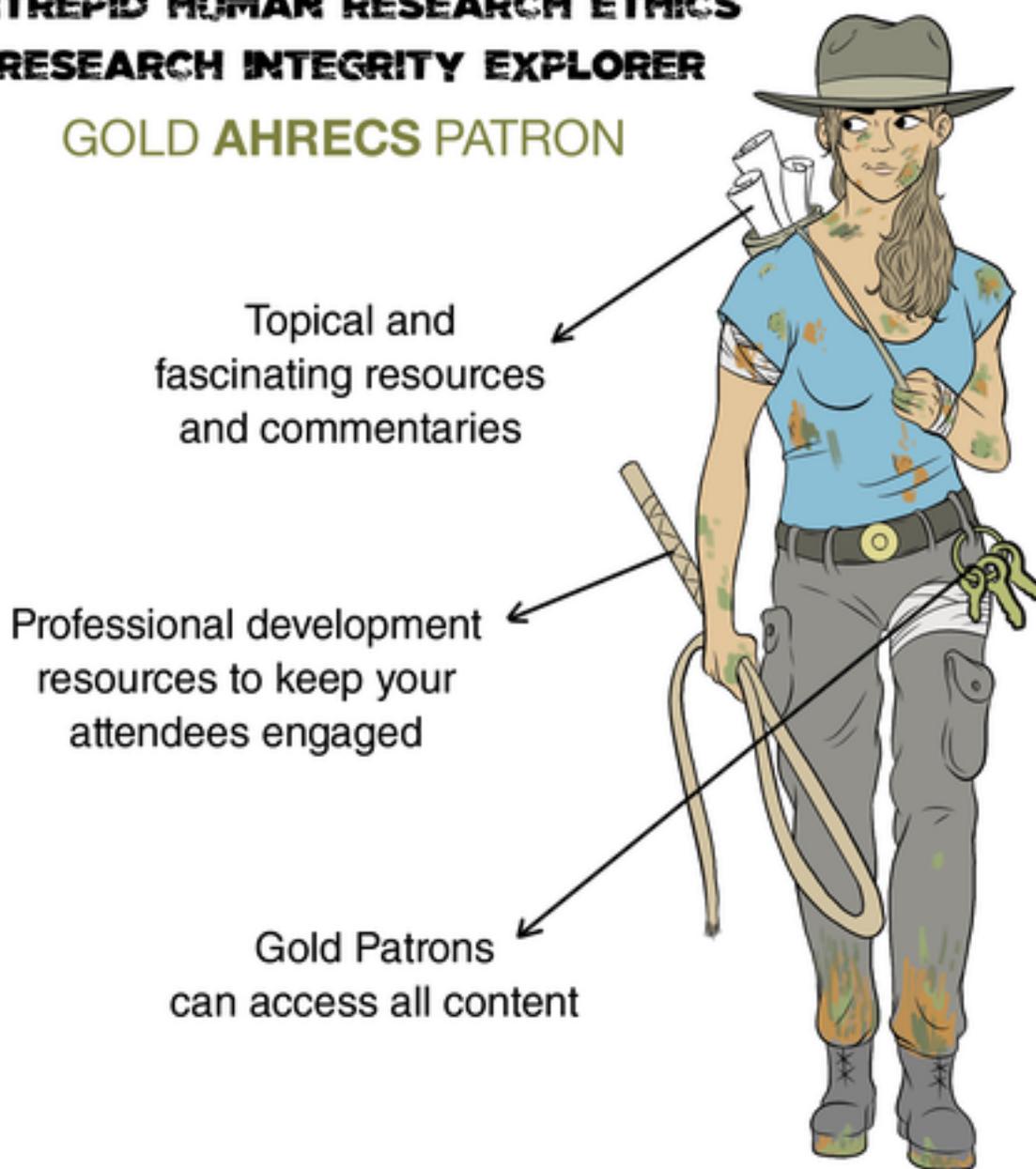
[Institutional conflict-of-interest policies at US academic research institutions, Resnik D.B, Ariansen, MS, Jamal, J. and Kissling, G.E. Commentary by Prof. Colin Thomson](#)

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Edith Cowan University

A University that asked to remain anonymous

A national research funding body that asked to remain anonymous

University of Wollongong Ethics Unit

5 researchers who asked to remain anonymous

Things You May Have Missed...

Resource Library (<https://ahrecs.com/ahresources>)

1. [Supervision and HDR candidate research outputs](#) (Resource material: Griffith University | June 2018) UPDATED 14/02/19

2. [Tips for negotiating the peer-reviewed journal publication process as an early-career researcher](#) - LSE Impact Blog
3. (US) [‘Three Identical Strangers’: The high cost of experimentation without ethics](#) - The Washington Post
4. [The picture talk project: Aboriginal community input on consent for research](#) - Paper
5. [Mentors help authors say “no” to predatory journals](#) - Elsevier Connect

Blog (<https://ahrecs.com/blog>)

1. [Self-plagiarism? When re-purposing text may be ethically justifiable](#)
2. [New research integrity professional development resource](#)
3. [Ten ways of ensuring affordable professional development in your institution](#)
4. [The Retraction Watch Database has launched. Here’s what you need to know](#)
5. [AHRECS Human research ethics workshop in Thailand](#)



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