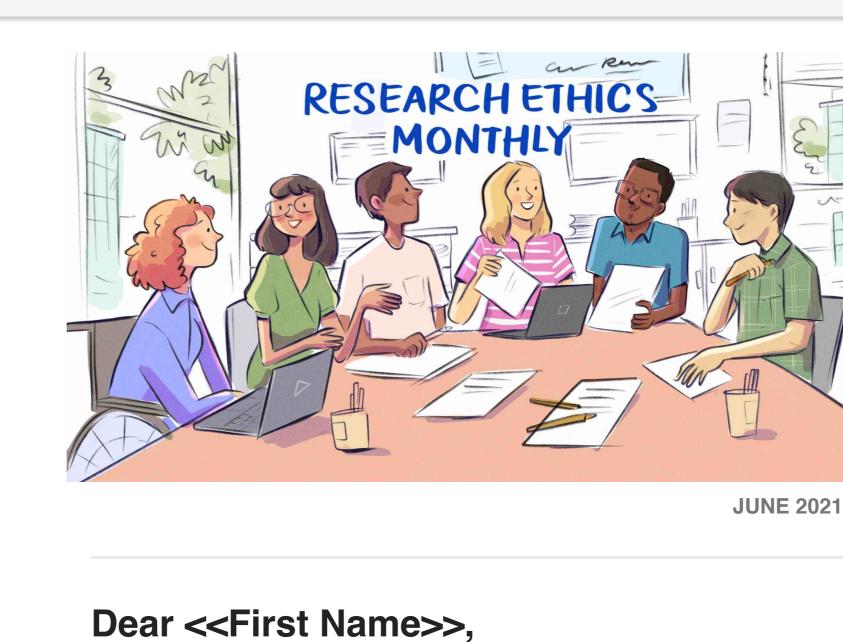
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Welcome to the June 2021 edition of the Research Ethics Monthly and a hearty welcome to all our new subscribers, we are thrilled to have you join our growing number of readers.

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4.4 Ensure that any potential breaches of the Code are reported ...in instances where the concerned party does not wish to report the

AHRECS Team

team. Please join us in welcoming:

suspected breach, and the RIA has reason to believe a breach of the Code has occurred, the RIA has a responsibility to report the potential breach to the RIO. (Draft Good Practice Guide for Research Integrity Advisors, 2021) The NHMRC is currently conducting a consultation on the proposed good practice guide for Research Integrity Advisers.

The draft indicates that an advisor must report a breach of the Australian Code if they know the details of the breach. To do otherwise would itself be a breach of the Code. Advisers are told helpfully to advise researchers to speak in hypotheticals, lest the adviser be obligated to report the matter to the institution. This has me hot under the collar.

Allow me to explain why. A collegiate RIA network has the capacity to create, nurture and support a community of practice for research integrity in an institution. This rests on researchers being able to check their practice with an RIA, receive advice and improve their practice. It should also involve researchers being able to check the behaviour of their peers, mentors and supervisors with the RIA to confirm they are appropriate, or whatever they

should be gently prompting a change in their peer's... Read more

We are delighted to share information about two new members of the AHRECS

Gordon McGurk – Gordon is a very experienced Chair of a district health HREC and

is a former staff member at the NHMRC. Last year, Gordon organised a highly successful online conference for HRECs. The event ran over a couple of days, had great speakers and received very positive feedback. We are excited to have Dr McGurk's involvement in some of our current research ethics projects relating to clinical trials and, more generally, health research. <u>Erich von Dietze</u> – Erich is an incredibly experienced university research ethics manager. In recent years, he has organised professional development workshops, conferences and events in Western Australia. AHRECS intends to host these events and support the continuation of Erich's work. Erich also brings expertise in animal ethics (see below). Our team is quite large now and we are thrilled by our expanded depth of expertise and capacity. Our senior consultants are Dr Mark Israel, Kim Gifkins, Dr Nik Zeps and Dr Gary Allen. **Animal Ethics** We have always been aware of the need for human, animal and environmental ethics experts to work together through One Health. However, animal ethics has never really been an AHRECS thing. Not least because we haven't had a great depth of knowledge and experience with regard to the

principles of ethical and responsible conduct with regards to the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. Dr <u>Erich von Dietze</u> joining our team changes that. We won't be changing our name, but we will now be offering services in the animal ethics sphere. How do you feel about that idea? At this stage, we can offer the following: **Professional development events** – We will be conducting regional and institutional professional development events, where individuals can attend online for a small fee (far cheaper than flying to an event and paying for accommodation). **Desktop audit and blueprints** – We can conduct a desktop audit of an institution's policies, procedures, resource material and professional development activities. Following the audit, we can provide a blueprint for moving to constructive and excellent practice. Mentoring and Coaching - We can provide mentoring for your committee Chair and/or Secretary, as well as meeting observation and committee coaching. Drop us a line (enquiry@ahrecs.com) if you would like to discuss how AHRECS could work with your institution – or with suggestions for other areas that we should offer in the animal ethics space.. RESEARCH



international postgraduate students. As part of their Master's by coursework theses, Kristy Davis and Liwen Tan conducted focus groups and interviews with four research higher degree and 21 Master's coursework international students from eight different countries, studying at an Australian university, to gain their views on the human research ethics application process. Interviews and focus groups were conducted in English, except those for the nine Chinese Master's

students, who elected to have sessions run by Liwen Tan in Mandarin. Our analysis of that data (Davis et al., 2021) showed that the most important influences on international students' experience were the time it took to do an application; support from supervisors, peers and others; their own language skills; and their lack of familiarity with research ethics procedures. The possibility that international postgraduate students will have engaged with concepts of ethical research in their previous studies will vary between countries, institutions and disciplines. Students from countries with a less developed research ethics tradition may therefore face challenges when undertaking coursework that assumes a background of ethical practice in research. Some of the language used by ethics bureaucracies is so arcane that it taxes even those who specialise in research ethics. Those of us who have spent time

of risk', 'publicly-available data', 'pseudonymised data' and 'distress protocols'. This can be particularly challenging for students for whom English is an additional language, including those whose first language may not have a vocabulary that matches the terms used in research ethics forms and associated correspondence... Read more

on human research ethics committees (HRECs) know that many researchers

struggle with technical phrases (often developed in the biomedical research

field) such as 'benefit sharing', 'incidental findings', 'disclosure policy', 'burden



What it is discussing, is the ethical maters that must be addressed as part of data sharing plans and the suggested criteria for ensuring that sharing of data meets ethical requirements. This is important because ethical concerns are often invoked as a reason why

researchers cannot share their data...

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Committee **Pastoral Roles on Tasmania HREC** (Category D) by Gary Allen and Nik Zeps In recent years, research funding bodies (e.g. the ARC and the NHMRC), journals, scientific bodies and institutions, have called upon researchers to share their data and it is widely accepted that this is necessary and important. Whilst the value of Data sharing is not up for debate, and the technical ways of achieving this are all achievable, this post will not focus on these. What it is discussing, is the ethical maters that must be addressed as part of data sharing plans and the suggested criteria for ensuring that sharing of data meets ethical requirements.

Internal Human Research Ethics

This is important because ethical concerns are often invoked as a reason why

researchers cannot share their data...

this report.

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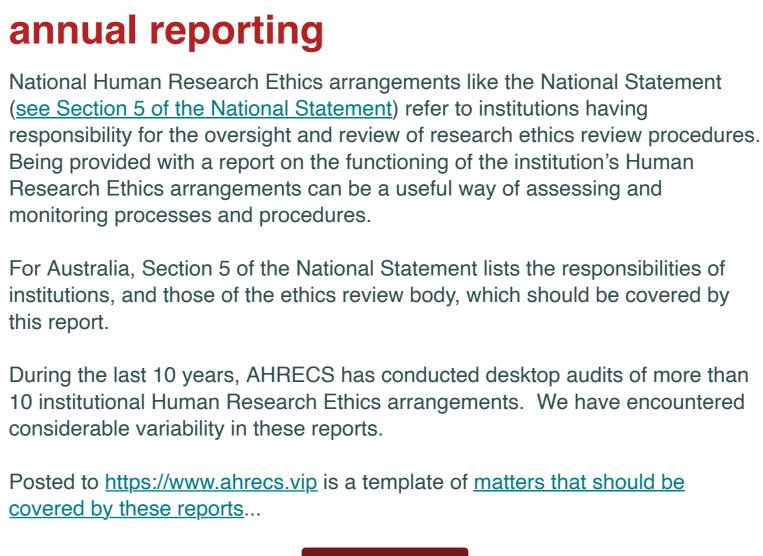
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