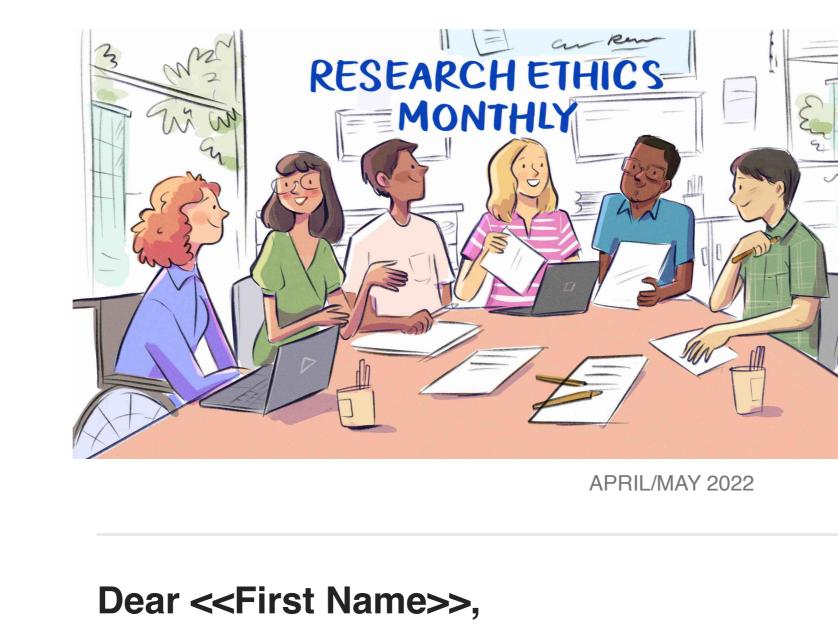
**Past Issues** Translate ▼

RSS 3



We are very pleased to welcome you to the April/May 2022 edition of the Research Ethics

# Monthly. This is a free publication for the Human Research Ethics, Research Integrity and Animal Ethics community.

Subscribe

If you are a subscriber to this publication, your name should appear above. Please let us know if we made any mistakes. If you are not named, please consider subscribing to the

Research Ethics Monthly (there is a subscription form on the Blog page).

Know someone who you think might like the REM? Please encourage them to subscribe. It's free and we generally only send one email every month. More information about Research Ethics Monthly can be found on the blog pages. Also,

Please support this publication by becoming an institutional (\$350/year) or individual patron (from USD1/month) - Email us at patron@ahrecs.vip if you also want to discuss supporting us. We hate to

there are links to our previous editions all the way back to May 2015.

ask, but your support would make a huge difference to us.



### and research but so are the universities themselves, using international student fees (approximately 24% of university revenue) to cross-subsidise government investment in research, accounting for half of their annual spending on

research prior to the pandemic (Norton, 2020; Yezdani, 2021; Larkins and Marshman, 2021). Hence when the borders closed it threw universities into a financial crisis. Despite a \$1 billion COVID-related boost, the 2021 federal budget was largely unsupportive of universities, and despite international travel reopening international student revenue may continue to decline (Larkins and Marshman, 2021; Hurley, Hoang and Hildebrandt, 2021). This has pushed universities to reassess business models and leverage research revenue from other sources such as industry (Mondschein, Roy and Naidoo, 2021). The need to increase collaboration with industry was reinforced by Alan Tudge, Federal Minister for Education and Youth, whose speech to universities pushed for translation and commercialisation of research, incentivising Government partnerships for universities who are "bold and ambitious" and who want "to get ahead of the game" (Tudge, 2021). So, what does that mean for ethics? Universities are often criticised for operating at a different pace to industry and, increasingly, I have heard researchers engaged in industry-facing research say the ethics process is seen as slow, not competitive and that we risk our reputation if we do not meet deliverables on time. This critique is not unique to ethics, indeed any university

process that appears to delay or hinder a researcher from getting on with their

work can be seen as unnecessary red tape. Yet, there is significant value that

comes with doing research with a university, and that is the university's

reassurance that the work is ethically robust; it is one of the things that sets us apart from less legislated providers. We rely heavily on the support from our communities and the wider society who have implicit trust in universities and its researchers to conduct research responsibly and ethically. So, while we want to support industry engagement we cannot risk compromising our standards. This raises the question: How do we "get ahead of the game"? What does "bold and ambitious" mean from an ethics lens? How do we ensure our ethics processes are 'fit for purpose' and able to adapt to change? Perhaps we need to ask ourselves a number of basic questions. 1. How do we define research? In Australia, the definition of research is taken from the Australian Code of Responsible Conduct of Research. Additionally, universities might have variations within their policy. Complications arise when non-research activities are labelled as research, and when research activities are incorrectly labelled as nonresearch activities, resulting in projects being reviewed when they need

not be, being subjected to excessive scrutiny, or inappropriately

bypassing review. This risks reputational damage to the institution and its

researchers, harm to participants, can impact on project timelines and

provoke unnecessary tension between researchers and the review process... Read more Friday arvo funnies Thank you, Adele, Conor and Mark for sending through your pics last month. We

would still really like to hear from other members of the Research Ethics Monthly cartoon. Visit <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/53189674/">https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/53189674/</a>, scroll through the list to find a cartoon, copy the image into an email and include its URL.

readership about your favourite



vulnerable, such as children in institutions.

even in relation to sensitive issues.

(A\$200) prize draw entry.

**AHRECS Animal Ethics** 

**AHRECS Research Integrity** 

AHRECS Global

**AHRECS Aotearoa New Zealand** 

children's participation in research about sensitive topics via the *Managing* Ethical Studies on Sensitive Issues (MESSI) study, funded by an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant (DP150100864). Three papers have now been published from our surveys with children, human research ethics committee members, parents and gatekeepers. Within those surveys we presented hypothetical scenarios describing research studies with child participants using varying sensitivity or risk levels (low, medium to high), study methods (online surveys, face-to-face interviews, focus group, or survey

in class) and payments (from no payment through to A\$30, A\$100 a high

Issues such as payments for children to participate have been controversial for

influenced or encouraged to take risks they would not take if it were not for the

recruitment, facilitating children having a say about issues that affect them -

A group of Australian researchers explored how decisions are made about

HRECs, with concerns expressed that child participants may be overly

offer of payment. But payments encourage participation and increase

Read more A firm known by any other name - Update Thank you to everyone who sent through their suggestions. What we have settled on is to leave our name as AHRECS, but to have different nodes for our areas of

**AHRECS Human Research Ethics** 

We are currently populating the content for those pages and will let everyone know

## once we are finished. Drop us a line (enquiry@ahrecs.vip) if you would like to discuss what we are up to in those spaces. Also, contact us if you think there are any other nodes that we should create.

activity. Currently, we have the following nodes:



#### At a group meeting, Dr Gordon McGurk, Chair of the RBWH HREC at the time, had an inspirational idea to host an online conference to ensure HREC members could access relevant training to assist them in their role. I thought this would be a great opportunity for HTQ to be involved in. A number of conferences such as the Australasian Ethics Network (AEN) conference and the Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law (AABHL), had been cancelled due to the pandemic and there was a real need and opportunity to

The idea for an online conference

support staff in this space.

video meeting or phone call.

research misconduct.

Australian Code.

systems

While you are here...

become a patron email <a href="mailto:patron@ahrecs.vip">patron@ahrecs.vip</a>

**A Human Research Ethics commentary** 

**Human Research Ethics discussion activity** 

 James Cook University Marcus Oldham College

• RAND Australia

Torrens University

workshops).

INSTITUTION

commentary

**Michael Creevey** 

my first role was working as an ethics coordinator at a private hospital. Whilst I had experience of university research ethics from my previous role in the UK, I had very little knowledge of the Australian system, processes and policies. Some formal training, direction to key information or a network of administrators would have been of huge benefit. Read more

Good uses of our on-call service

I also felt some resonance with the idea. On arriving in Australia back in 2013,

Some of the ways clients have been using the on-call service include: In situations where projects are being classified as low risk or negligible risk, we assess whether review outside an HREC is appropriate. Providing advice, feedback and suggestions on material that has been drafted internally at their institution.

Providing advice as to whether a breach of the Australian Code appears to be

Suggesting appropriate educational and system responses to a breach of the

The on-call service involves pre-purchasing a small block of hours for us to provide external, expert and independent advice on Research Integrity, Human Research Ethics and Animal Ethics. We can then provide you with prompt advice via email,

Providing advice on a new/emergent issue in the Animal Ethics, Human Research Ethics or Research Integrity spaces. We are happy to sign a non-disclosure agreement if you engage us. On-call hours can be purchased in 10, 20 or 30-hour blocks. They are then used in 15-minute blocks. The hours need to be used within 24 months. If you still have a block of hours left, please contact us before the end of two years, and we will discuss whether they can be rolled over or used as credit for other work that we undertake. Our rates are below. 10 hours A\$3650 20 hours A\$6935 30 hours A\$9855 Any reduction in rates beyond 30h should be individually negotiated. Different rates apply for Aotearoa New Zealand and we recognise that Australasian rates are not appropriate in the Global South. Contact us at <a href="mailto:enquiry@ahrecs.com">enquiry@ahrecs.com</a> if you would like to discuss your institution engaging AHRECS on an on-call basis..

Effective use of research management

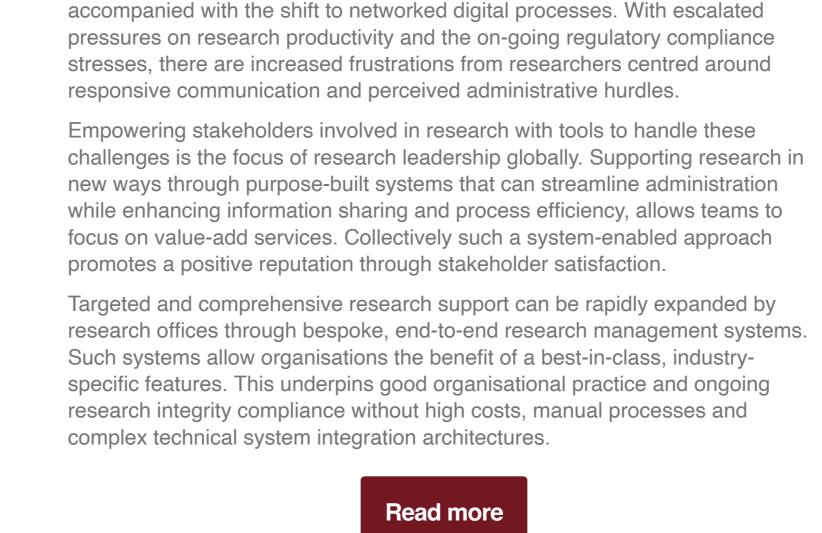
In recent years, the workplace dynamics have significantly changed for most

research support functions there have been reductions in staff and corporate

technical challenges with the rapid pivot to remote working environments

employees. Research and research support are not exempt from this and within

memory. This extends to both research ethics and research integrity. There are



INDIVIDUAL Subscriptions start at USD1/month and USD15/month gives you access to all materials. See <a href="https://www.patreon.com/ahrecs">https://www.patreon.com/ahrecs</a> A few profiled items from the subscribers' area: **01.** Chasing a non-responsive researcher – A Human Research Ethics commentary 02. How to avoid passive-aggressive mischief in a lab – A Research Integrity commentary 03. You have been screened - A Human Research Ethics commentary

**04.** The role and recognition of advisers/technicians/assistants in human research –

06. You can't sue us mechanism - A Human Research Ethics discussion activity

05. Blinding and a trial that was too successful – A Human Research Ethics

07. What does the wording of research recruitment material really mean? - A

Did you enjoy this edition? Would you like to support the work we do? If so,

Ethics Monthly and other web development by becoming an AHRECS Patron.

monthly updates of useful material (such as resources for use in your local

Subscriptions for institutions cost \$350/year. A tax invoice will be provided. Payments can be made by credit card over the phone, EFT or via PayPal. To

In addition to the warm glow from supporting our work, you will be subscribed for

please consider helping us cover the cost of matters such as hosting the Research

08. Impostor syndrome and HDR candidates – A Research Integrity commentary 09. Notes for a report from a human research ethics committee to an institutional governing body - A Human Research Ethics resource 10. Human research ethics and risk, the role of research ethics committees - A **Human Research Ethics talk** Please join us in saying a big thank you to our Institutional Patrons: Ballarat Health Services Bendigo Health CanTeen Central Queensland University

• The internal Ethics Review Panel of the Department of Employment,

By their generosity, they keep Research Ethics Monthly free and ad-free

**01.** Can Research Lost to Predatory Journals Be Saved? – Cabells: The Source

**Skills, Small and Family Business (Commonwealth)** 

Queensland University of Technology

University of Canterbury (NZ)

University of Technology Sydney

• University of Melbourne

Things You May Have Missed... **Our Newsroom** 

# **02.** Time to recognize authorship of open data – Nature 03. (Australia) Concussion researcher claims AFL hindered two-year research project into players' health - The Guardian 04. The Tadpole Paper Mill - Science Integrity Digest

Governance

| Twitter | Facebook)

**08.** Open access is closed to middle-income countries – Times Higher Education **09.** (Australia) <u>Australia needs an Office for Research Integrity to catch up with the</u> <u>rest of the world</u> – The Conversation **10.** (UK) UK hails 'significant savings' as Elsevier open access deal struck – Times **Higher Education** 

social media to get an alert when new items are added (LinkedIn

integrity practices and commercialisation - Video

(payment) in research - Paper

**06.** The Journal of Cleaner Production tolerates plagiarism – Sustainability

**07.** <u>Acing the peer review process</u> – Nature Computational Science

**05.** Q&A: Paleontology's Colonial Legacy – The Scientist

**Our Resource Library 01.** Turnitin Integrity Matters Video: Exploring the pandemic's impact on research

02. (Nigeria) LAS around the globe: Animal care culture – from cultural and

There were more than 110 more great items in the last 90 days. Follow us on

institutional norm, responsibility, and support standpoints - Paper 03. The science of animal behavior and welfare: challenges, opportunities, and global perspective - Resource **04.** The use of text-matching software's similarity scores – Paper 05. Ensuring quality and ethics of research on FGM: new WHO guidance out now -

WHO **06.** Turnitin Integrity Matters Video: Research integrity, impact factors and <u>commercialisation of research – TurnItIn</u> - Video 07. How do Research Ethics Committee Members Respond to Hypothetical Studies with Children? Results from the MESSI Study - Paper

**09.** <u>Identifying potential barriers and solutions to patient partner compensation</u>

08. (Canada) Academic Misconduct in Higher Education: Beyond Student Cheating -

10. The challenges of open access data - Commentary Do you know someone who hasn't subscribed yet to the

Research Ethics Monthly? Please encourage them to

subscribe now and help us grow this community.

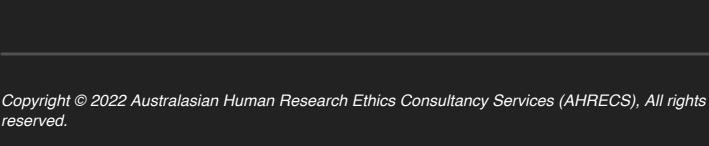
Got an idea for a post or a suggestion for a

guest? Send an email to gary.allen@ahrecs.com



Do you have a view, feedback or some constructive criticism on this or other posts? Every item has comment link so you can have your say and continue





We hate spam and definitely don't want to bother you with unwanted emails. You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe from this list</u>. This newsletter is authorized by the AHRECS team, <u>click here</u> for contact and other details.

the conversation.

We would never divulge your details to anyone else, including not disclosing you're a subscriber, without your permission. mailchimp