

AUGUST 2022

Dear <<First Name>>,

We are very pleased to be back and we welcome you to the August 2022 edition of the *Research Ethics Monthly*. This is a free publication for the Human Research Ethics, Research Integrity and Animal Ethics community. We produce and distribute this publication, thanks to the generous support of our patrons (see below for more details).

During the past months AHRECS has been working with various institutions, providing support and training, and we have recently expanded our portfolio to include expertise in Animal Ethics. Our ability to provide relevant support is constantly growing.

If you are a subscriber to this publication, your name should appear above (any errors, please let us know). If you are not named, or know someone who might like to receive the *Research Ethics Monthly*, please encourage subscriptions (there is a subscription form on the [Blog page](#)), this enhances our ability to provide quality content. It's free and we generally only send one email every month.

Are there insights to Human Research Ethics, Research Integrity and Animal Ethics you would like to contribute or receive? Send your ideas to researchethicsmonthly@ahrecs.com (see below for more details).

More information about *Research Ethics Monthly* can be found on the [blog pages](#). Also, there are links to our previous editions all the way back to May 2015.

Please support this publication by becoming an institutional patron (\$350/year) or individual patron (from USD1/month) - Email us at patron@ahrecs.org if you also want to discuss supporting us. We hate to ask, but your support would make a huge difference to us. We can issue institutions with a tax invoice for your subscription.



Erich von Dietze

The *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2018) expresses the need for members of Human Research Ethics Committees to be supported in their roles and to receive training or professional development appropriate to their role on the committee. While this ensures an expanding knowledge base, it can be expensive and poses difficulties for individual institutions to provide.

In response to this, Perth-based HRECs have gathered together annually since around 2007. In the early years, the workshops were offered to lay members of university HRECs, providing focused presentations and opportunities for networking. Members across different institutions' HRECs had an opportunity to meet one another and share resources. Demand from other members and institutions has seen the workshops expand in range and ambition over time. We use feedback to build each year's workshop so the series continues to meet the needs of attendees. Institutions share the hosting of the event and have significant input into the format and program.

Past events have included

blind review of ethics applications from different institutions	feedback from researchers who have interacted with HRECs	challenges from past HREC members	presentations from researchers with expertise in specific areas of ethics
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Speakers addressed more technical areas such as data, privacy, emerging research methods, and legislative requirements. Discussion is not associated with any individual HREC or any particular ethics application, rather is more generic to HRECs as a group.

Friday 30 September 2022 – Human Ethics workshop

Interacting across boundaries: applying human research ethics in different situations.

Read more

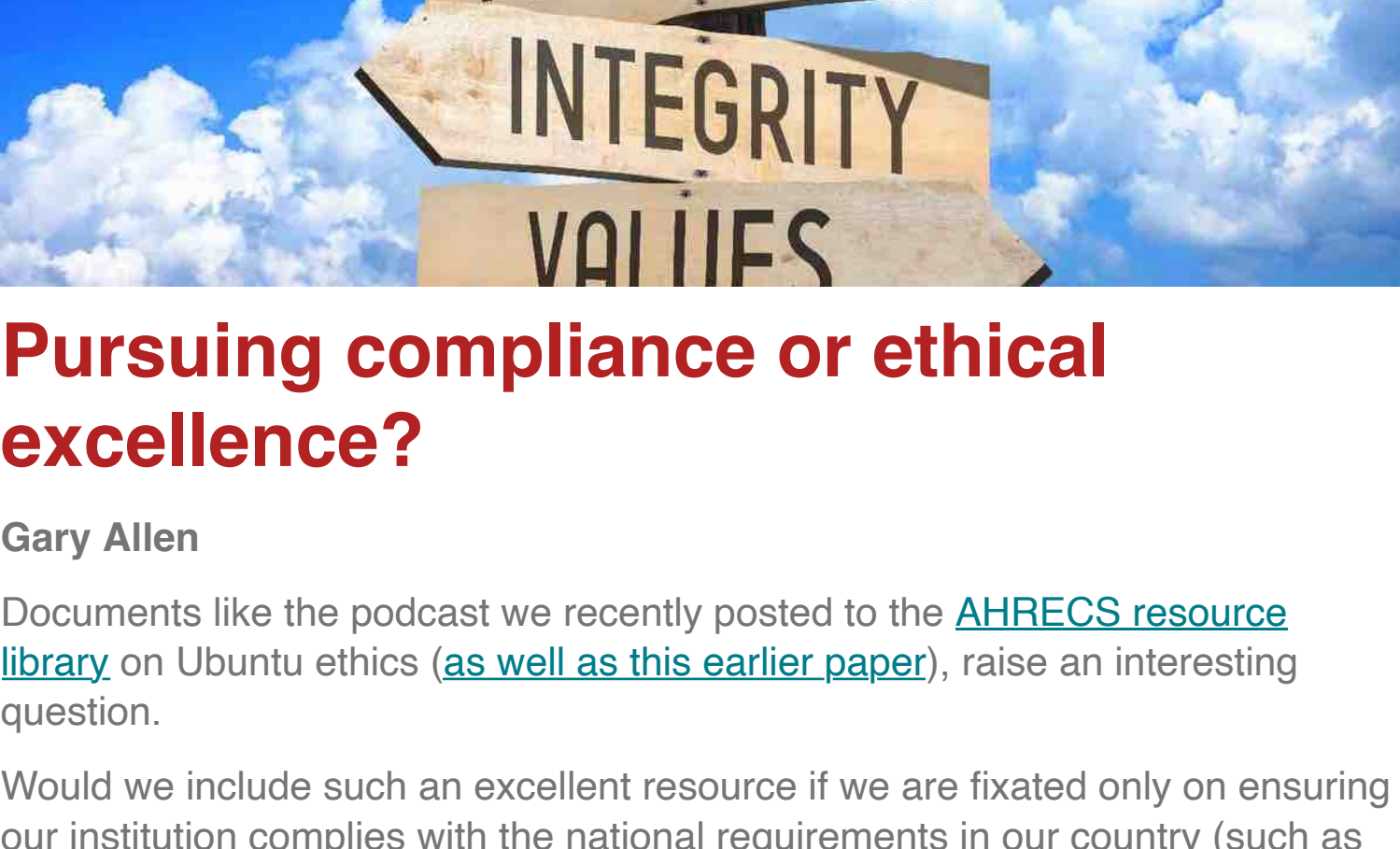
In-meeting professional development

A difficulty HRECs face around the country is the conduct of professional development for committee members. The difficulty is not wanting to ask committee members and volunteers to give up more of their time to participate in professional development activities for the committee. In addition to the expense, there can also be a concern about attendance expense, travel and accommodation. At the same time, we have never heard anyone say their committee does not require professional development or capacity building.

AHRECS conducts in-meeting professional development. This will often involve pre-reading of a case, guideline and resource material; around 45 minutes presentation (often by video link) followed by 15 minutes for discussion; and an activity book for later. These can be inserted into a scheduled meeting time, rather than find an additional day everyone can get together. Such sessions cost AUD900.

We have conducted similar activities for committees based in other countries. We would be very happy to discuss adjusting the price to match local realities.

Email us at enquiry@ahrecs.com to discuss setting up something for your institution.



Pursuing compliance or ethical excellence?

Gary Allen

Documents like the podcast we recently posted to the [AHRECS resource library](#) on Ubuntu ethics ([as well as this earlier paper](#)), raise an interesting question.

Would we include such an excellent resource if we are fixated only on ensuring our institution complies with the national requirements in our country (such as the [National Statement](#) in Australia)?

It is useful for researchers to know about and be able to apply Ubuntu ethics, not only if they plan to conduct a research project in Africa, but as also a useful frame for approaching ethical questions.

Does an active and respectful consideration of Ubuntu ethics and its relation to a vibrant place and people, prompt us to consider the traditions, beliefs, and cultural protocols of potential participant pools we hope to work with?

The strength and the inherent weakness in ethical guidance documents such as the National Statement is that they encourage us to think that they are the only useful frame for approaching ethical challenges, topics or issues. **This is absolutely not the case**, and we need researchers to be flexible and innovative to apply other guidance material to their work.

Perhaps to genuinely prompt excellent ethical reflection, we need to go beyond compliance and share reading material that encourages reflection.

Staying in familiar territory, Australian researchers being aware of this material will help them address 4.8.2 of the [National Statement](#).

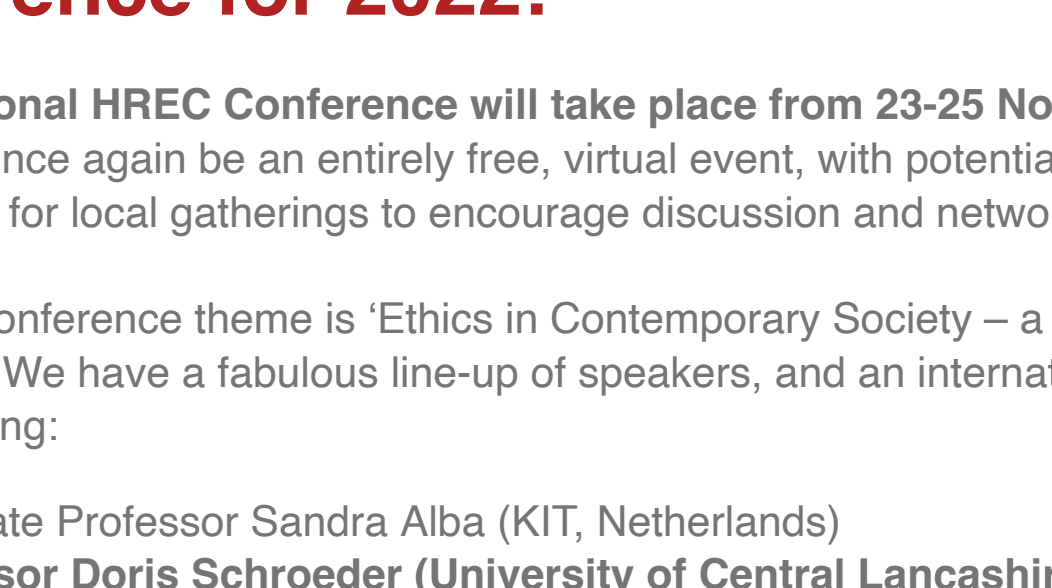
Read more

Coaching Chairs and Secretaries and Mentoring committee members

The wider AHRECS Team brings together experienced research ethics committee Chairs and Secretaries, as well as experienced committee members.

We provide a service where we can coach your Chair or Secretary, as well as mentor your committee as a whole or members individually. This will generally involve remote meetings with individuals, remotely attending meetings and providing reports with recommended action.

Email us at enquiry@ahrecs.com if you would like to discuss engaging us to do this work for you.



Announcing the 3rd National Human Research Ethics Committee Conference for 2022!

The 3rd National HREC Conference will take place from 23-25 November 2022. It will once again be an entirely free, virtual event, with potential opportunities for local gatherings to encourage discussion and networking.

This year's conference theme is 'Ethics in Contemporary Society – a global perspective.' We have a fabulous line-up of speakers, and an international focus, including:

- Associate Professor Sandra Alba (KIT, Netherlands)
- Professor Doris Schroeder (University of Central Lancashire, UK)
- Dr Jacob Earl (Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, US)
- Vidar Enebak (Director - The National Committee for Research Ethics in the Social Sciences and the Humanities (NESH), Norway)
- Professor Paul Komesaroff (Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University)
- Professor Wendy Lipworth (Macquarie University, Australia)

The sessions this year will include:

- Consent
- Research involving lived experience groups
- Data management.

There will also be a facilitated practical workshop each day where attendees can discuss topics such as:

- The future of HRECs in Australia
- Making an HREC fit for purpose
- How to consider the secondary use of data.

Given their value and popularity in previous years, the conference will again be sponsored by Health Translation Queensland, AHRECS, Praxis and Bellberry and will include training sessions by [Salinger Privacy](#) and [Praxis](#).

If you are interested in speaking at the conference, opportunities to present are still available, and abstract submissions are currently being accepted. Please visit the conference [website](#) for details.

By registering your [interest](#) for the conference you will be notified as soon as the tickets are released.

[Conference website](#).

Would you like to write an item for the Research Ethics Monthly?

We are interested in Human Research Ethics, Research Integrity and Animal Ethics items. Send us your ideas to researchethicsmonthly@ahrecs.com. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Posts should be around 1,000 words - longer if you are offering practical advice.

Share your ideas, innovations or frustrations with your peers. or comment on an earlier story in this blog.

While you are here...

Did you enjoy this edition? **Would you like to support the work we do?** If so, please consider helping us cover the cost of matters such as hosting the Research Ethics Monthly and other web development by becoming an AHRECS Patron.

In addition to the warm glow from supporting our work, you will be subscribed for monthly updates of useful material (such as resources for use in your local workshops).

INSTITUTION
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INDIVIDUAL
Subscriptions start at USD1/month and USD15/month gives you access to all materials. See <https://www.patreon.com/ahrecs>.

A few profiled items from the subscribers' area:

01. Acting on 'soft' research misconduct – A Research Integrity commentary – A Research Integrity commentary
02. A warm up activity – A Human Research Ethics discussion activity
03. Chasing a non-responsive researcher – A Human Research Ethics commentary
04. How to avoid passive-aggressive mischief in a lab – A Research Integrity commentary
05. You have been screened – A Human Research Ethics commentary
06. The role and recognition of advisers/technicians/assistants in human research – A Human Research Ethics commentary
07. Blinding and a trial that was too successful – A Human Research Ethics commentary
08. You can't sue my mechanism – A Human Research Ethics discussion activity
09. What does the wording of research recruitment material really mean? – A Human Research Ethics discussion activity
10. Impostor syndrome and HDR candidates – A Research Integrity commentary

Please join us in saying a big thank you to our Institutional Patrons:

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- James Cook University
- Marcus Oldham College
- The Internal Ethics Review Panel of the Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business (Commonwealth)
- Queensland University of Technology
- RAND Australia
- Torrens University
- University of Canterbury (NZ)
- University of Melbourne
- University of Technology Sydney

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Things You May Have Missed...

Our Newsroom

01. (Australia) [Ethics guide details how researchers should work with wildlife](#) – Times Higher Education
 02. (Australia) [ARC bans preprints, again](#) – Campus Morning Mail
 03. [Preprints and open peer review come of age](#) – Research Information
 04. [Article Processing Charges \(APCs\) and the new enclosure of research](#) – London School of Economics Blog
 05. (Europe) [Support Europe's bold vision for responsible research assessment](#) – Nature
 06. [Publisher retracts 350 papers at once](#) – Retraction Watch
 07. [The Replication Crisis and the Problem With Basic Science](#) – Psychology Today
 08. [How a scandal in spider biology upended researchers' lives](#) – Nature
 09. [Opinion: Why Won't Academia Let Go of 'Publish or Perish'?](#) – Undark
 10. [The peer review system is broken. We asked academics how to fix it](#) – The Conversation
- There were more than 100 more great items in the last 90 days. Follow us on social media to get an alert when new items are added ([LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#))

Our Resource Library

01. [AI-enabled image fraud in scientific publications](#) - Papers
02. (Australia) [Predatory publishing: A to Z elements](#) - Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
03. [Examination of Potential Industry Conflicts of Interest and Disclosures by Contributors to Online Medical Resource Databases](#) - Papers
04. [Retracted randomised controlled trials were cited and not corrected in systematic reviews and clinical practice guidelines](#) - Papers
05. (Australia) [Ethics Are Admin: Australian Human Research Ethics Review Forms as \(Un\)Ethical Actors](#) - Papers
06. [Bibliometric and Altmetric Analysis of Retracted Articles on COVID-19](#) - Papers
07. [Research and publication ethics knowledge and practices in the health and life sciences: Findings from an exploratory survey](#) - Papers
08. [Is the future of peer review automated?](#) - Papers
09. [The Citation of Retracted COVID-19 Papers is Common and Rarely Critical](#) - Preprint Papers
10. [Ethical Issues in Social Science Research Employing Big Data](#) - Papers

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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 the conversation.



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