



Stress, heat and other occupational exposures O-59

Robert Wålinder, MD, PhD

and

Colin L. Soskolne, PhD

Members, ISEE Ethics and Philosophy Committee

Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Uppsala
university hospital/ Uppsala University, Sweden

robert.walinder@medsci.uu.se

Declaration of Financial Conflict of Interest

- All authors of this presentation have read the definition of Financial Conflict of Interest and certify:

There are no financial conflicts of interests to declare

OR

- One or more of the authors <specify the names> have the following financial conflict-of-interest to declare relevant to activities with industry and related to the topic of this presentation:

Research Contracts or Employment

Paid or Unpaid Consulting

Stockholder in or industry ownership

Other (please specify):

.....

Aims of this discussion

- To facilitate dialogue about the ethical dimensions relevant to the presentations in this session with regard to, for instance, hypothesis formulation, methods, analysis, dissemination of results, data archival/sharing, and community engagement.
- To promote greater ethical transparency and accountability.

Before we move on, let's quickly remind ourselves about Ethics Principles:

From Bioethics	From Public Health & Environmental Epidemiology
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Respect for autonomy: respecting the right of participants to self-determine the extent of their participation● Beneficence: doing good through our research● Non-maleficence: doing no harm● Social/Distributive Justice/ Fairness: who is deriving benefits and who is taking risks?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Protect the Most Vulnerable● The Precautionary Principle● Environmental Justice● Scientific Integrity● Protect the Public Interest Over Any Other Interests● Others ...

Background

Occupational workers are a special group with potentially high-level exposures beyond what is seen in the general community. Studying exposed populations is useful for better understanding exposure-disease associations. It is especially important to protect the health of working populations.

Questions, 1 of 2

- Could it be misleading to conduct “poor studies”, diluting the risk estimates, when such studies might be used as an excuse for neglecting risk factors?
- How could international agreements, national regulations and occupational health practices be made more efficient to reduce occupational hazards for example from asbestos or in the textile industries?

Questions, 2 of 2

- Can ethical codes and ethical competence among occupational health practitioners be helpful for better ensuring work based more on evidence when there is a clear conflict between economic interests and occupational health interests?
- Is it ethical to ignore the internal dose contribution among nuclear workers, traditionally mostly using only external radiation dosimeters for dose assessment?

About ISEE Ethics and Philosophy Committee

http://www.iseepi.org/About/ethics_cmte.htm

- Established in 1991; we address ethical and philosophical underpinnings at the nexus of environment and health
- We sponsor symposia; maintain and develop ethics guidelines; offer recommendations and definitions; provide moral support to victimized colleagues

- **Are you aware of the ISEE Ethics Guidelines for Environmental Epidemiologists - Revised April, 2012? Have you read them?**

(Kramer *et al* 2012 Revised Ethics Guidelines for Environmental Epidemiologists. *Environ Health Perspect* 120(8))

http://iseepi.org/About/Docs/ethics_guidelines_adopcted_april_25_2012.pdf

- **New members are welcome! Send enquiries to any one of:**

Wael Al-Delaimy: waldelaimy@ucsd.edu (Committee Chair)

Adetoun Mustapha: adetoun.mustapha03@alumni.imperial.ac.uk

Martin Tondel: martin.tondel@medsci.uu.se