The NUS-IRB hopes to keep our researchers updated on the latest ethical issues and problems occurring around the world. This will help us keep abreast of international best practices to ensure that research done in Singapore will be well accepted, scientifically and ethically. These news alerts will be issued as and when incidents are reported.

In This Issue

1. Hopkins suspends PI’s privileges on projects involving human subjects

2. Havasupai can sue over blood tests by ASU, UA

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RESEARCH ETHICS:

Hopkins suspends PI’s privileges on projects involving human subjects


The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has sanctioned Dr GB, the lead author of a widely publicized study that reported massive civilian deaths because of the U.S.-led invasion and war in Iraq.

The school would bar the Dr from serving as a principal investigator on projects involving human subjects for 5 years. An internal investigation of the study found that he violated its protocol in collecting the full names of Iraqi survey participants. The school had given him approval for the research with the understanding that no unique identifiers would be recorded.

The school says the paper published in the Lancet medical journal incorrectly stated that identifying data were not collected. A correction will be submitted.

Havasupai can sue over blood tests by ASU, UA

http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/131398

Arizona’s Havasupai Tribe has been given the go-ahead to sue the Arizona State University (ASU) and the University of Arizona (UA) over claims that researchers improperly used blood samples of its members.

In the early 1990s, tribal members agreed to have their blood drawn under the pretense that the ASU researchers would use their blood to research on diabetes. In the ensuing years, tribe members learnt that more than 200 blood samples were used in other research including schizophrenia and migratory patterns.
Tribal members have filed for damages and return of their blood samples. Negotiations for a possible settlement are ongoing.

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**About NUS-IRB**

NUS Institutional Review Board (NUS-IRB) was established on 1st September 2003. This Board (also referred to as the Research Ethics Committee in some countries) will review, approve and monitor the ethical aspects of all NUS research projects that involve human subjects and human tissues/cells/data.

Its main objective is to protect the rights and welfare of human research subjects in research activities conducted by NUS students and researchers.

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