Milestones and objectives

- Quality Assurance - feedback from users of NRES - April 2007
- Appointment of National Research Ethics Advisers - June 2007
- Quality Assurance - accreditation programme will begin September 2007
- Launch of study information form for use and consultation - September 2007
- Implementation of common policy for expenses for REC members - September 2007
- Completion of pilot screening for early provision of advice - October 2007
- Roll-out of early provision of advice (subject to outcome of pilot) from October 2007
- Completion of pilot screening for fast track review - October 2007
- Roll-out of fast track approval process (subject to outcome of pilot) from October 2007
- Quality Assurance - appraisal system for members and chairs to be developed - Winter 2007
- 6th Chairs' Annual Conference - 22nd and 23rd November 2007

National Research Ethics Service

National Patient Safety Agency
4 - 8 Maple Street
London
W1T 5HD

T 020 7927 9898
F 020 7927 9899

0756

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www.nres.npsa.nhs.uk

NHS
National Patient Safety Agency
National Research Ethics Service

Research ethics timeline

Issue 4

RESEARCH ETHICS TIMELINE

500 BC
Hippocrates
A medical oath, outlining physicians duties

130 - 210AD
Galen
A prolific author, whose theories became accepted authority

1543
Andreas Vesalius
A professor of anatomy whose direct observation challenged Galen

1620s
Sir Francis Bacon
His "Great Instauration" was ONE of the founding stones of modern empiricism

1628
Sir William Harvey
His book "An Anatomical Study of the Motion of the Heart and of the Blood of Animals" described the circulation

1637
Rene Descartes
"Discours de la methode" describes developing inductive logic

1665
Richard Lower
The first attempted blood transfusion

1669
John Locke
"It is idle to expect any great advancement in science from things upon old." "de Arte Medica"

1672
Sir Robert Talbor
Secrecy and deception in medicine

1724
Jonathan Swift
An attack on the new "Natural Philosophers" in Gulliver's Travels

1751
Observations on the effects of the vitrum Antimonii Ceratum. An early description of self experimentation

1751
Dr Branchini
A description of experimentation and placebo

1753
James Lind
A treatise of the scurvy: often quoted as the first research trial

1770
Dr John Gregory
The first description of medical ethics in English. 'Observations on the duties and offices of a physician'

1785
Dr William Withering
"An account of the foxglove and some of its medical uses" placing the use of this herb/medicine on a scientific basis

1798
Dr E Jenner
The experimentation using cowpox to protect against smallpox

1803
Dr Thomas Percival
A description of medical ethics

1822
Dr William Beaumont
Observation of a tragic natural accident

1865
Claude Bernard
An introduction to the study of experimental medicine

1867
Professor Joseph Lister
The development of anti-sepsis

1879
Dr Armauer Hansen
Experimentation without consent

1860 to 1900
Professor Louis Pasteur
Development of the germ theory and its application to medicine

1898
Professor Neisser
Experimentation without consent

1900
The Prussian code for medical experimentation

1900
Dr Walter Reed
"Self" experimentation and a fatality as a result of yellow fever (Jesse Lazear)

1902
Dr Albert Moll
A code of medical ethics

1905
Professor Robert Koch
Expounding "Koch's postulates"

1929
Sir Alexander Fleming
Discovery of penicillin

1932
The Tuskegee Syphilis Study
An observational study continued after possible therapy was available

1937
Sir Austin Bradford Hill
Principles of medical statistics

1930s/40s
Nazi experimentation

1947
Nuremberg code
A code created by the judiciary at the Nazi war crime trials as a benchmark against which to try those accused

1964
World Medical Association

1964
The Helsinki Declaration
A code of practice for physicians involved in medical research

1966
Dr Henry Beecher
"Ethics and clinical medicine" an analysis of questionable medical research

1966
The first Research Ethics Committee (REC) in the UK

1967
Dr Maurice Pappworth
Human Guinea Pigs

1991
Department of Health
Guidance for Local RECs

2000
Department of Health
Central Office for Research Ethics Committees (COREC) established

2001
European Union
Directive 2001/20/EC

2001 Department of Health
Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees (GAfREC)

2004 UK Regulations
The Medicines for Human use (Clinical Trials) Regulations

2007
NATIONAL RESEARCH ETHICS SERVICE (NRES) LAUNCHED