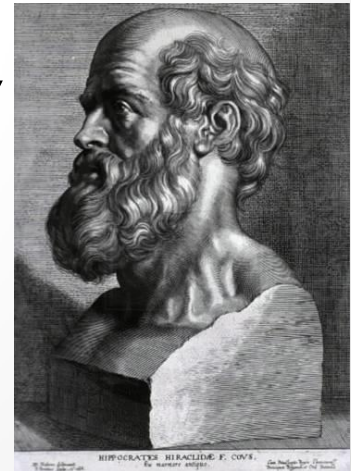


Overview Clinical Ethics

GamREMTI
Annual Workshop
04 – 05 April 2023
Dr Jenny Mueller

Oath of Hippocrates (440-301 BC)

- Probably the earliest documented note on medical practice and ethics
- Modified over the years and currently known as the “Physicians’ Oath” stating:
- Physicians should abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous
 - “All that may come to my knowledge I will keep secret and will never reveal”
 - “I will prescribe regimens for the good of my patients and never do harm to anyone”



Origin of Research Ethics

Gambia Medicines & Related Products Regulations 2020

Gambia Medicines & Related Products Act 2014

WHO Guidelines 2000

ICH-GCP Guideline 1996

CIOMS Guidelines 1982

Belmont Report 1979

Declaration of Helsinki 1964

Nuremberg Code 1947



Health Care vs. Research

- **Health care**

- refers to interventions that are designed to provide diagnosis, preventive treatment or therapy to particular individuals

- **Research**

- refers to activities designed to test a hypothesis, permit conclusions to be drawn, and thereby to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge

Health Care vs. Clinical Studies

- ✓ Proven interventions provided to individual patients based on individual needs
- ✓ Data recorded for individual patient only
- ✓ Data mostly used only by the treating healthcare professionals
- ✓ Benefit expected for the individual
- ✓ Applies institution's procedures

- All participants or groups of participants follow the same regimen
- Consistent and specific format for data collection
- Large quantity of data
- Data are reported and can be audited/inspected
- Do not always benefit the individual
- Applies regulatory requirements

Ethical Principles

- Providing the appropriate care, treatment, and safety of patients is the guiding principle of the code of clinical ethics.
- This principle has four key elements:
 - Beneficence (doing good)
 - Nonmaleficence (to do no harm)
 - Autonomy (patients' freedom of free choice)
 - Justice (ensuring fairness)

International Standards

- WMA International Code of Medical Ethics (1949, last update 2022)
- WMA Declaration of Lisbon on the Rights of the Patient (1981, last update 2015)
- WMA Medical Ethics Manual (2015)
- WHO Global Health Ethics Key issues (2015)
- WHO Guidelines on Ethical Issues in Public Health Surveillance
- *Journal of Medical Ethics* is a leading international journal that reflects the whole field of medical ethics

Healthcare Professionals

- Applies to all Healthcare Professionals
 - Physicians
 - Nurses & Midwives
 - Public Health Officers
 - Community Health Workers
 - Pharmaceutical Personnel
 - Pharmacy Council of The Gambia (PCG), Code of Ethics for Pharmacists – Summary of Principles (2018)
 - Medicines Control Agency (MCA), Policy on Code of Ethics and Conduct (2020)

A Personal Opinion

- Healthcare providers should be familiar with the ethical and legal expectations that arise out of the standard practices and be trained in it
- Healthcare providers should utilise **expert knowledge** which requires lifelong learning and self-development
- Healthcare professionals should provide care in a **compassionate** and professional manner
- Experienced healthcare professionals should be committed to be involved as supervisors and mentors to **develop the profession** and showing professional leadership

Workshop

- Are there written clinical ethics requirements available in The Gambia?
- Is ethical education integrated in the curricula of healthcare training institutions?
- Is any person or institution available for patients' ethical problems (other than the RECs)?

Thank you for your attention

