

Ethical Considerations: Designing Clinical Trials for Al-based Interventions

Karla Childers

Head, Bioethics-based Science & Technology Policy Office of the Chief Medical Officer Johnson & Johnson

The Promise of Clinical Trials: Transforming Tomorrow's Health

SCRI Clinical Trials Symposium 2024



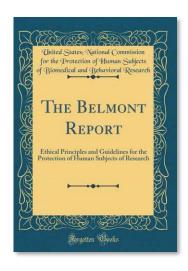
Disclosure statement

- I am an employee and shareholder of Johnson & Johnson
- The views expressed in this presentation are mine alone and may not represent those of my employer





The basis for ethical conduct of research is well-established

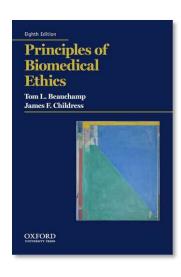


- Respect for Persons
- Beneficence
- Justice

Source: The Belmont Report: Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research. [Bethesda, Md.]: The Commission, 1978.

The Promise of Clinical Trials: Transforming Tomorrow's Health

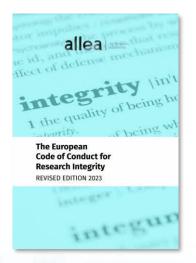
SCRI Clinical Trials Symposium 2024



- Autonomy
- Non-maléficence
- Beneficence
- Justice









My Goal: Avoid bioethics being viewed as a barrier to innovation

The Promise of Clinical Trials: Transforming Tomorrow's Health

SCRI Clinical Trials Symposium 2024



Consider some of the top concerns expressed about Al in healthcare

- Right to know
- Explainability
- Biased datasets









SCRI Clinical Trials Symposium 2024





Right to Know

How does using an Al-based intervention change the informed consent process?

The Promise of Clinical Trials: Transforming Tomorrow's Health

SCRI Clinical Trials Symposium 2024





Explainability

Are we expecting more of Al than we currently expect from our human decision makers?

The Promise of Clinical Trials: Transforming Tomorrow's Health

SCRI Clinical Trials Symposium 2024





Biased Datasets

We know data sets are biased, incomplete, insufficient

We routinely make decisions based on these data

When and how does AI make this more problematic?

The Promise of Clinical Trials: Transforming Tomorrow's Health

SCRI Clinical Trials Symposium 2024



Big Picture Takeaways

- Look first to existing guidelines and practices that tell us what ethical research looks like
 - Tenets of informed consent and enhanced process to ensure appropriate understanding of complex concepts and risks
 - What would a reasonable patient want to understand? Have you asked patients what they want to know?
 - Are the data fit for the purpose for which they are going to be used? Are you relying on inherently flawed data without any guardrails to avoid further misuse or marginalization?
- Ensure training about ethical conduct of research especially for fields that may not have that traditional exposure to patients
- Healthcare is not the place to move fast and break things can lead to bad outcomes and patient harm







