



REVISTA COLOMBIANA DE PSIQUIATRÍA

www.elsevier.es/rcp



Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind and Bioethics

Ethics committees and mental health[☆]

Carlos Enrique Yepes Delgado^{a,b,*}, Andrea Ocampo Montoya^a

^a Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia

^b Unidad de Investigaciones, Hospital Pablo Tobón Uribe, Medellín, Colombia

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 28 October 2016

Accepted 21 May 2017

Available online xxx

Keywords:

Ethics committee

Research

Psychiatry

Consultation-liaison psychiatry

ABSTRACT

Although research processes are covered by the objectivity of science, they are still influenced by the interests of those who conduct them. This is why high level committees have been tasked with defining the scope of the studies and performing a thorough assessment of them, since these imply great dilemmas. This premise leads to the emergence of Ethics Committees, where liaison psychiatry has an important place due to its communication abilities and knowledge of the human behaviour. This paper attempts to provide some observations to take into account when discussing the link between ethics and mental health. In this work, the authors approach the question of ethics committees and the importance that psychiatrist performance has within them. This is done through a review of relevant papers on the subject. A detailed description on research ethics is provided in terms of justification, purpose and duties. Likewise, emphasis is placed on each of the areas in which psychiatrists are involved and bear great responsibilities in the medical decision-making process. Similarly, this description also includes the moment in which participants give their informed consent when taking part in medical research. Finally, we conclude that there are several questions regarding the relevance given to these committees in the methodological and ethical assessment of research projects. This in turn implies greater effort in the search for a culture of quality which highlights the emphasis on research subjects.

© 2017 Asociación Colombiana de Psiquiatría. Published by Elsevier España, S.L.U. All rights reserved.

Comités de ética y salud mental

RESUMEN

Los procesos de investigación, aunque están comprendidos en la objetividad de la ciencia, no dejan de estar permeados por los intereses propios de quienes los ejecutan. Por eso se han destinado comisiones de alto nivel para delimitar el alcance de los estudios y hacer un examen riguroso por los grandes dilemas que acarrearán. A partir de esta premisa surgen los

Palabras clave:

Comité de ética

Investigación

Psiquiatría

Psiquiatría de enlace

DOI of original article: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rcp.2017.05.011>.

[☆] Please cite this article as: Yepes Delgado CE, Ocampo Montoya A. Comités de ética y salud mental. Rev Colomb Psiquiat. 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rcp.2017.05.011>

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: caenyede@gmail.com (C.E. Yepes Delgado).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rcpeng.2018.03.006>

2530-3120/© 2017 Asociación Colombiana de Psiquiatría. Published by Elsevier España, S.L.U. All rights reserved.

comités de ética, en los cuales la psiquiatría de enlace ha ocupado importantes puestos, por sus habilidades en comunicación y conocimiento del comportamiento humano.

El presente artículo pretende aportar algunas observaciones que tener en cuenta en la relación existente entre la ética y la salud mental, al abordar el escenario de los comités de ética y la importancia del desempeño de los psiquiatras en ellos, mediante la revisión de artículos clave sobre el tema. Se da una descripción detallada de la ética de la investigación, en cuanto a justificación, propósitos y deberes, haciendo énfasis en cada una de las áreas en que el psiquiatra se ve envuelto con grandes responsabilidades en el ejercicio de la toma de decisiones médicas hasta el aval en el consentimiento informado de aquellos que participan en las investigaciones médicas. Finalmente, se concluye que existen varios interrogantes respecto a la relevancia que se ha dado a estos comités en la evaluación metodológica y ética de proyectos de investigación, lo que supone mayores esfuerzos en busca de una cultura de la calidad que realce el énfasis en el sujeto de investigación.

© 2017 Asociación Colombiana de Psiquiatría. Publicado por Elsevier España, S.L.U. Todos los derechos reservados.

Introduction

The desire for knowledge tends to be accepted and valued socially as a routine everyday process in humans. In addition to desiring and promoting the pursuit of knowledge, we even assign recognition to those who develop it and encourage research in various areas of society. The fact that it is a natural desire of humans precisely exposes us to be permeated by multiple interests, in some cases alien to the conscious will of the person. Objectivity as a reiterated paradigm that sustains the classic conception of science has not been able to purge the investigative task of the non-rational components inherent to the subject who investigates, despite the enormous efforts of some scientists to cover up multiple features of subjectivity or political choice.¹

Both the motivation and the scope of the research, arising from human freedom for the right and the duty to know, have individual and collective implications, as science has gone from being a matter of exclusive interest of the scientific communities to having implications in society as a whole. Thus, the public policies that define research reflect the priority given to it in the different countries around the world, in many cases assigning high-level commissions to delimit the scope of the studies, and these guidelines appear subject to the interests that reflect implementation of the policy, expressed in legislative acts of various kinds. The foregoing introduces multiple tensions into the conducting of research, which far exceed the merely cognitive scope and overlap with values such as justice, welfare and freedom, among others.²

In addition to the recognition biomedical sciences deserve thanks to the impact on the protection of people's health, not only in the physical and social, but also psychological, fields, some of the practices associated with research require rigorous examination because of the great dilemmas they give rise to. Such examination involves reviewing the research processes, the responsibility of its purpose and the validity and acceptability of the media, as well as verifying the legitimacy of those who define these practices,³ and even more so if they are associated with people's mental health. In order to meet these objectives, the creation of committees made up of people with extensive knowledge about ethics has become

essential. At the same time, in the search for communicative, educational, cultural relations and teamwork skills,⁴ a select group of psychiatrists has been necessarily involved in the committees in order to successfully give continuity to these processes.

What is an ethics committee?

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), a bioethics committee "is responsible for systematically and continuously addressing the ethical dimension of (a) medical and health sciences; (b) biological sciences, and (c) innovative health policies. The term "bioethics committee" denotes a group of people who come together to address issues that are not simply factual, but are also profoundly normative". This is the way in which particular individual and social values are questioned and studied with rigour, and is equivalent to assessing our own behaviour and that of others. Although initially they were created to support doctors in behavioural decisions in moral dilemmas, today they are a requirement for the assessment of biomedical research projects in humans and they advise professional associations and those who formulate public policies. Healthcare professionals who deal with mental health have played a particularly important role on these committees, ranging from educational functions on elements for mental assessment and communication and organisational skills for ethical reflection, through the development of policies related to decisive and controversial treatment, to the approach to complicated cases in which emotions and moral judgements are factors inseparable from the ethical evaluation.⁵ There are currently four recognised types of ethics committees: policy-making and/or advisory bioethics committees (PMC); health-professional association committees (HPA); healthcare/hospital ethics committees (HEC); and research ethics committees (REC).⁶

According to the Colombian Instituto Nacional de Vigilancia de Medicamentos y Alimentos (INVIMA) [National Institute for Food and Drug Surveillance], the research ethics committee is the organisation responsible for guaranteeing the protection of the rights, safety and well-being of the humans involved in a clinical study through the review, approval and

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8926918>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8926918>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)