Double Standards in Medical Research in Developing Countries

This book explores the ethical controversies that have surrounded the design and conduct of international medical research sponsored by industrialized countries or industry, and carried out in developing countries. The chief concern is that research subjects in developing countries may be exploited because sponsors of research employ double standards. One debate focuses on whether the standard of care provided to subjects of medical research in developing countries should be the same as that which research subjects receive in North America and Europe. Another controversy addresses the obligations of sponsors of medical research to provide the successful products of research to the population in developing countries where the research is conducted. Other concerns examined are whether the process of obtaining informed consent in developing countries is adequate, and whether prior ethical review of research meets standards that are well established in the industrialized world. Recent international developments show that essential medications can be made affordable and accessible to developing countries, and that double standards need not prevail. This is the first book to examine these issues, drawing the bold conclusion that double standards in medical research are ethically unacceptable.

RUTH MACKLIN is Professor of Bioethics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and is one of the founders of bioethics in the United States. Her books include *Against Relativism*, *Enemies of Patients*, and *Surrogates and Other Mothers*. She has also published numerous articles in scholarly and professional journals. Professor Macklin is a past president of the International Association of Bioethics, current vice-president of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences, serves on the editorial board of several journals in bioethics, and is an adviser to the World Health Organization. She was appointed by President Clinton to the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, and has served as a member of numerous scientific committees at the National Institutes of Health.

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Ruth Macklin

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