

## ABSTRACT

**5th Sino-US Symposium  
Medicine in the 21st Century  
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**Ethics & Law in Medical Discovery, Clinical Trials, & Digital Health Records**

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The 21<sup>st</sup> Century brings the promise of great medical discoveries as we unravel the mysteries of the human genome with the promise of new therapies developed for targeting specific cancers and other dreaded diseases while not harming normal tissue.

Clinical human trials are a part of the discovery process to prove what can help without harming. Proper analysis of results of testing is critical. Electronic storage of medical information and powerful search engines offer immediate retrieval of critical information in an emergency and for research needs.

But ethics and the law are important considerations in the advancement of science. However, at times, the researcher or physician may find the law giving a directive in conflict with ethics. The patient's best interest must be protected.

This presentation will discuss significant issues such as informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, property rights in genomic discoveries, institutional review boards, fraud, and conflicts of interest.

Examples of ethical principles and laws include Confucius' statement, "Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you" (Analects 15:23), the Hippocratic Oath, the Belmont Report, The World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki, the American Medical Association's ethical opinions and policies, The Nuremberg Code, and USA federal regulations from the Office for Human Research Protections.

Just as there can be tension between the Dragon and the Tiger in China's rich history, so can there be conflict with law and ethics and research.

**Background information:**

World Medical Association and the Declaration of Helsinki on Ethical Principles on Medical Research Involving Human Subjects

<http://www.wma.net/e/ethicsunit/helsinki.htm>

<http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm>

The Belmont Report

<http://ohsr.od.nih.gov/guidelines/belmont.html>

American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates Policy and Ethical Opinions regarding clinical research

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/noindex/category/11760.html>

Use the search engine in PolicyFinder.

The Nuremberg Code

Regulations and Ethical Guidelines at National Institutes of Health USA

<http://ohsr.od.nih.gov/guidelines/nuremberg.html>