News

ICTRP moves to Ethics and Health

Improving transparency in health research activities is a strong ethical commitment, a responsibility shared by many stakeholders within the global community: researchers, sponsors, policy makers and international Organizations. The establishment of ICTRP by WHO in 2005, illustrates this commitment. Over the last two years, many initiatives were taken at national and international levels to establish primary registries and increase the quality of information available. Recently it was decided that ICTRP would be part of the WHO’s program on Ethics and Health, this new modality of work provides an opportunity to identify synergies and complementarities between the clinical trial registration and other processes aiming to improve the ethical conduct of research. The main objectives are related to major gaps in the field of research. ICTRP aims to provide transparent information about ongoing research and thus to facilitate the analysis of its potential impact. A better information about ongoing research is needed to elaborate an agenda of research relevant to public health priorities and thus to address what was identified more than 10 years ago as the "10/90 gap". Information about ongoing research also facilitates the use of new scientific knowledge in decision making processes addressing what is often called the "know-do gap". Finally providing public access to information about ongoing research contributes to strengthen the legitimacy of research for health, addressing the gap of public trust. The global debate on research ethics will also benefit from a better analysis of research involving human participants. Beyond the consensus (or dissensus) on ethical principles and normative framework, the clinical trial registration is a key component of research oversight.

Some concrete examples of the possible use of this platform:

- NHS Choices clinical trials website [http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/clinical-trials](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/clinical-trials)
- E-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions e-lena ([http://www.who.int/elena](http://www.who.int/elena))
- The Pan African Clinical Trials Alliance project is aiming to integrate the clinical registration in the oversight of clinical trials in Sub-Saharan African countries based on a coordinated and harmonized process of ethics review and regulation.

The ICTRP Secretariat looks forward to strengthening its collaboration with countries and other international partners.
EU-CTR becomes a Primary Registry

On 14 September 2011 the EU Clinical Trials Register (EU-CTR) became a member of the Primary Registry Network of ICTRP. It is hoped that the EU-CTR will become a data provider before the end of 2011.

- European Medicines Agency press release

List of Primary Registries

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List of Data Providers

The Data Providers of the ICTRP Search Portal currently are:

- Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR)
- Chinese Clinical Trial Register (ChiCTR)
- Clinical Research Information Service (CRiS), Republic of Korea
- ClinicalTrials.gov
- Clinical Trials Registry - India (CTRI)
- Cuban Public Registry of Clinical Trials (RPCEC)
- German Clinical Trials Register (DRKS)
WHO Registry Platform Newsletter
September 2011

- Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials (IRCT)
- ISRCTN.org
- Japan Primary Registries Network (JPRN)
- Pan African Clinical Trial Registry (PACTR)
- Sri Lanka Clinical Trials Registry (SLCTR)
- The Netherlands National Trial Register (NTR)

New XML Download Function

On 14 September 2011 ICTRP launched a new download function on the search portal that allows downloading the results of the search into an xml format. This is currently available from the homepage search only and a limit of 100 records per download has been fixed. Soon the limit will be increased, and downloading records will also be available from the advanced search page. The current function also allows downloading selected records.

WHO launches an e-library to improve nutrition (E-LENA)

On 10 August 2011 WHO launched the electronic Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions -- or eLENA – in Colombo, Sri Lanka. As part of a global effort to improve maternal, young child and infant health, e-LENA brings together the latest evidence-informed WHO guidelines, commentaries and evidence resources on the broad topic of nutrition. The aim of this new e-library is to stimulate effective nutrition actions and guide programme and policy design.

http://www.who.int/elena

The WHO e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions (eLENA) compiles a number of documents and content types for each nutrition intervention.

The evidence section also provides access to related clinical trials registered in the International Clinical Trials Registry Platform, and lists examples of other published clinical trials.

Example: HIV and infant feeding

Recent publications of interest

The following list of publications is provided for the information of interested readers. Listing of a publication does not imply WHO endorsement. Please be aware that some hyperlinks may only work if your organization has a subscription to the relevant journal.
1. Registration of observational studies: is it time? Williams et al. CMAJ. 2010;182: 1638-1642. PMID: 20643833 [http://www.ecmaj.ca/cgi/content/long/182/15/1638](http://www.ecmaj.ca/cgi/content/long/182/15/1638)

Publicity material
Help us to raise awareness of trial registration and of the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP). Remember the ICTRP brochure, with instructions for printing, are available on our web site.

Contact us
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[http://www.who.int/ictrp](http://www.who.int/ictrp)

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