Why we should teach research ethics

Mark Wilkinson
History

• 1803 – Thomas Percival “Code of medical ethics” mentioned research but NOT informed consent
• 1833 – William Beaumont American Voluntary consent is necessary
• 1865 – Claude Bernard research causing harm should be forbidden
law

• 1900 – Prussian directive
• 1931 – German Reich Principles on patient autonomy
• UK – EU law
  – NHS governance directives
  – Mental capacity act
  – Human Tissue act
Public perceptions

TIMES ONLINE
Constant policing of our research makes us look sinister, say scientists

Guardian.co.uk
How to avoid the bitter pill of regulation

Regulation of science
Few people say they know anything about the way science is regulated, with most people assuming that it is government that regulates science - thus there is no great knowledge about self-regulation, ethical codes or standards, or peer review.
At last! An Ethics Committee that will listen to reason...!
Human Tissue Act 1961

- Section 1(2) makes it clear that the objections of relatives should be recognised and that tissues and organs should not be used for medical purposes when the relatives object.
the term “diagnostic review” was also used to describe a different procedure where groups of brains from patients who had died of similar neuropsychiatric diseases were reexamined to identify new and previously unrecognised diagnostic sub-categories. Brain archives and collections are essential for this work and the future of neuropathology would be seriously hampered without such reviews. The Neuropathology Department did not regard this type of “diagnostic review” as research
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A REAL ETHICS COMMITTEE