



# ETHICS OF HUMAN RESEARCH IN PERU. YET ANOTHER PENDING TASK

ÉTICA DE LA INVESTIGACIÓN CON SERES HUMANOS EN EL PERÚ. UNA TAREA PENDIENTE MÁS

Fanny L. Casado<sup>1,2,a,b,c</sup>

EDITORIAL

We are currently cruising through a second wave of cases during the pandemics of COVID-19 in Peru<sup>(1)</sup>. Anonymous heroes leave their houses every day and keep offering their work to support their families and communities. After almost a year of the beginning of this Public Health Crisis, much more is being demanded from health and allied professionals. Important efforts leading to improvements on infrastructure and technical guidance for medical innovations have been forced to move forward and be implemented in unprecedented timelines<sup>(2)</sup>, but their visibility is hindered by another pending task in the Peruvian Health System related to the Ethics of Human Research. Worldwide, the history of Ethics of Human Research has been plagued with scandals and crisis<sup>(3)</sup>. With every scandal in different parts of our globe, the scientific community was able to rethink their practice so that the guiding ethical principles can be updated to meet new challenges and include newer technologies. While there is an ongoing public debate regarding the use of an experimental vaccine that has touched many Peruvians and Argentinians, I would like to propose these events as an opportunity to build a critical mass of health practitioners, health researchers and citizens educated on how medical innovation works and why it should be intertwined with ethical guiding principles of behavior to truly generate value in our society.

The Research Ethics Committees or Boards need to have higher promotion, participation and acceptance as a vital space within institutions to protect the dignity, respect, and integrity of research participants. When properly trained, guided and resourced, these committees may also protect the researchers themselves<sup>(4)</sup> because by asking questions under the light of ethical rather than only technical considerations, the real value of the scientific endeavor can have higher impact on our society. While times of crisis might obscure deliberating practices, there are international guidelines that have been developed in calmer times based on experience in other cultures that should also be evaluated and examined when shaping the future of Human Research Ethics in Peru<sup>(5)</sup>. Recently approved regulations<sup>(6)</sup> consider a more comprehensive vision to regulate human research, it is necessary to create interdisciplinary spaces to discuss actions to expand the current paradigm that clinical research is the only type of research with human beings that requires regulation in Peru. Moving forward medical innovations need to account for many different actors that go beyond clinical settings<sup>(7)</sup> so that for example, we can develop ethical new business models that work in our sanitary system. Finally, the traditional teaching of Ethics in courses towards the end of professional training should move towards a life-long learning approach of ethical literacy that starts building upon the curricula of health and health-related professions and continues through professional life.

Addressing even one of these lines of action may seem like an excellent thing to do by somebody else who knows how to do it. However, I encourage you to reach out to your colleagues and take upon the challenge of talking into existence an ethically-driven human research in Peru.

<sup>1</sup> Instituto de Ciencias Ómicas y Biotecnología Aplicada (Icoba), Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima-Perú.

<sup>2</sup> Departamento de Ingeniería, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima-Perú.

<sup>a</sup> PHD Toxicología.

<sup>b</sup> Director Icoba.

<sup>c</sup> Associate Professor.

**Cite as:** Fanny L. Casado. Ethics of human research in peru. yet another pending task. Rev. Fac. Med. Hum. April 2021; 21(1):259-260. DOI 10.25176/RFMH.v21i2.3744

Journal home page: <http://revistas.urp.edu.pe/index.php/RFMH>

Article published by the Magazine of the Faculty of Human Medicine of the Ricardo Palma University. It is an open access article, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons License: Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International, CC BY 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), that allows non-commercial use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided that the original work is duly cited. For commercial use, please contact [revista.medicina@urp.pe](mailto:revista.medicina@urp.pe)



**Correspondence:** Fanny L. Casado, Ph.D.

**Address:** Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Avenida Universitaria 1801, San Miguel, Lima-Perú.

**Telephone number:** 626-2000 / **Annexed:** 4285

**E-mail:** fanny.casado@pucp.edu.pe

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

1. Ministerio de Salud. Decreto Supremo que prorroga la Emergencia Sanitaria declarada por Decreto Supremo N° 008-2020-SA, prorrogada por Decretos Supremos N° 020-2020-SA, N° 027-2020-SA y N° 031-2020-SA. No 009-2020-SA. <https://busquedas.elperuano.pe/normaslegales/decreto-supremo-que-prorroga-la-emergencia-sanitaria-declara-decreto-supremo-n-009-2021-minsa-1929103-4/>
2. Ministerio de Salud. Colección: Normatividad sobre COVID-19. <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/minsa/colecciones/749-normatividad-sobre-coronavirus-covid-19>
3. Paul H. The Scientific Self: Reclaiming Its Place in the History of Research Ethics. *Sci Eng Ethics*. 2018 Oct;24(5):1379-1392. doi: 10.1007/s11948-017-9945-8. Epub 2017 Jul 18. PMID: 28721643; PMCID: PMC6209027.
4. Sambieni, N.E. Differences and structural weaknesses of institutional mechanisms for health research ethics: Burkina Faso, Palestine, Peru, and Democratic Republic of the Congo. *BMC Med Ethics* 19, 47 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12910-018-0284-3>
5. International Ethical Guidelines for Health-related Research Involving Humans, Fourth Edition. Geneva. Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS); 2016.
6. Ministerio de Salud. Consideraciones Éticas para la Investigación en Salud con Seres Humanos. Resolución Ministerial N° 233-2020-MINSA. [https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/662949/RM\\_233-2020-MINSA\\_Y\\_ANEXOS.PDF](https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/662949/RM_233-2020-MINSA_Y_ANEXOS.PDF)
7. Butler D. Translational research: crossing the valley of death. *Nature*. 2008 Jun 12;453(7197):840-2. doi: 10.1038/453840a. PMID: 18548043.

EDITORIAL

Indexed in:



Scientific Electronic Library Online

[http://www.scielo.org.pe/scielo.php?script=sci\\_serial&pid=2308-0531&lng=es&nrm=iso](http://www.scielo.org.pe/scielo.php?script=sci_serial&pid=2308-0531&lng=es&nrm=iso)



DIGITAL COMMONS

<https://network.bepress.com/>



DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

<https://doaj.org/>



bvs LILACS biblioteca virtual em saúde

<http://lilacs.bvsalud.org/es/2017/07/10/revistas-indizadas-en-lilacs/>



Revista de la Facultad de Medicina Humana

INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIONES EN CIENCIAS BIOMÉDICAS

Vol. 21, No. 2  
Abril - Junio 2021