Research ethics education needs assessment in Serbian medical researchers

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April 09, 2024

Abstract

The lack of formal education in research ethics is a significant issue for the ethical conduct of research and a limitation on the ethical review of research in Serbia and other low-and middle-income countries in the Balkan region. We conducted a cross-sectional survey in a sample of researchers and ethics committee members from the three academic healthcare institutions in Serbia to evaluate their educational needs for training in research ethics. Our study revealed that previous research ethics education had a significant effect on respondents’ perception of their own competence to resolve dilemmas related to informed consent, authorship and publishing. Respondents expressed a high level of motivation to participate in further research ethics education. In addition, the study revealed that researchers from different specializations and with different research experience have different education needs. These findings should be taken into account when tailoring research ethics education to meet the needs of learners.

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This research is part of the NIHR25/Fogarty International Center project supplement “Investigating the Serbian Need for Research Ethics Education” (3R25TW008171-08S1)
Source of support:
This research was funded by the National Institutes of Health/DHHS (NIHR25/Fogarty International Center project supplement 3R25TW008171-08S1)
Ethical approval:
On January 1, 2021, the Program for the Protection of Human Subjects (PPHS) office issued its determination that our study is exempt from human research as defined by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regulations 45 CFR 46.101(b) (4).
Running head:
Research ethics education needs assessment
Word count: 3,992
The number of tables: 7
Keywords: research ethics; education needs; ethics competence; curriculum development; ethical review
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