



# Ethical Dimensions of Advancing Exposure Methodology through Suspect Screening and Non-target Analysis

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# Aims of this discussion

- To facilitate dialogue about the ethical dimensions relevant to the presentations in this session with regard to, for instance, hypothesis formulation, methods, analysis, dissemination of results, data archival/sharing, and community engagement.
- To promote greater ethical transparency and accountability.

*Before we move on, let's quickly remind ourselves about Ethics Principles:*

From Bioethics	From Public Health & Environmental Epidemiology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Respect for autonomy:</b> respecting the right of participants to self-determine the extent of their participation</li><li>• <b>Beneficence:</b> doing good through our research</li><li>• <b>Non-maleficence:</b> doing no harm</li><li>• <b>Social/Distributive Justice/ Fairness:</b> who is deriving benefits and who is taking risks?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protect the Most Vulnerable</li><li>• The Precautionary Principle</li><li>• Environmental Justice</li><li>• Scientific Integrity</li><li>• Protect the Public Interest Over Any Other Interests</li><li>• Others ...</li></ul>

# Background

- Biomarkers of exposure provide evidence of exposure and thus assist in targeting PRIMARY PREVENTION messaging in public health.
- SECONDARY PREVENTION involves screening to identify people who, given exposure, are experiencing patho-physiological changes that risk morbidity and premature mortality.

# Questions

- Advances in technology make it possible for refined measurement tools for screening populations in ways unachievable in the past. What are the **CONSEQUENCES** of screening, both good and bad?
- Do we let technology drive our future, or can we shape it through **ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**?  
Simply put: Do we do what we do because we can or because we should?
- Should we address exposure assessment without also considering health outcomes?

# Questions (continued)

- Should ethical dimensions be considered after-the-fact, once the stable door has been opened, or prior to their introduction?
- Is it ethical not to translate results from health research into policy?
- Is the trajectory that humankind is on one driven by technological advance?
- CAN BEING AWARE OF THESE ASPECTS ENHANCE OUR ROLE AS CITIZEN SCIENTISTS?

# About ISEE Ethics and Philosophy Committee

[https://iseepi.org/Public/About\\_Us/Committees/Ethics\\_and\\_Philosophy/](https://iseepi.org/Public/About_Us/Committees/Ethics_and_Philosophy/)

- Established in 1991; we address ethical and philosophical underpinnings at the nexus of environment and health
- We sponsor symposia; maintain and develop ethics guidelines; offer recommendations and definitions; provide moral support to victimized colleagues
- **Are you aware of the ISEE Ethics Guidelines for Environmental Epidemiologists - Revised April, 2012? Have you read them?**

(Kramer *et al* 2012 Revised Ethics Guidelines for Environmental Epidemiologists. *Environ Health Perspect* 120(8))

- **New members are welcome! Send enquiries to any one of:**

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