

## Ethics in Vaccine Research

*Scott Halperin, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Microbiology & Immunology  
Director, Canadian Center for Vaccinology*

The following discussion questions are provided as an additional educational tool to accompany this fireside chat video. Please feel free to select the questions that are most relevant to your committee or group, revise and adapt them as needed, etc. As always, we welcome feedback on this or any other NSHEN resource.

### Questions:

- What stood out most to you in this interview and why?
- What ethical concerns would you have around *including* and *not including* the following population groups in early stage vaccine trials?
  - Children
  - Pregnant women
  - Elderly populations.
- Would you participate in a vaccine trial? Why or why not?
- Would you consider participating in a vaccine trial if you were already eligible for a vaccine against the disease? (Consider the values that drive your answer.)
- When pharmaceutical companies succeed in developing effective vaccines, do you think they have an ethical obligation to offer vaccines to trial participants who received placebos during the trial?
  - Does your opinion shift if these participants are not eligible for a vaccine outside the trial?
- What ethical values do you think should guide priority in vaccine research and development?
- What ethical values do you think should guide vaccine distribution, both nationally and globally?
- What role should governments play in building and enhancing public trust in vaccines?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic shifted your thinking about ethics and vaccines?

### Resources

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<https://www.newyorker.com/science/medical-dispatch/the-coronavirus-vaccine-presents-a-dilemma-for-pregnant-women>

*Some articles require access with an institutional login. If you need assistance in accessing an article please email NSHEN administrator Krista Mleczko-Skerry at [Krista.MleczkoSkerry@ivk.nshealth.ca](mailto:Krista.MleczkoSkerry@ivk.nshealth.ca)*