



"Investing in Africa's future"

COLLEGE OF HEALTH, AGRICULTURE & NATURAL SCIENCES

SPH 534: ETHICS IN HEALTH CARE AND RESEARCH

END OF SECOND SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATIONS: ONLINE

MAY/JUNE 2020

LECTURER: MRS M. TIRIVAVI

DURATION: TO BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 48 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS

You are required to answer questions as instructed below:

Answer only **One (1) of the 3** questions in this paper

Each full question carries **100 marks**

Your full answer should be between **10 -15 pages**

Font: Arial, Font size 12, Line space: Double spacing.

Write student number on each page

Credit will be awarded for logical, systematic and neat presentations

1. Scientific misconduct is defined as an action, which is out of norm with the professional code of ethics adopted by the professional society, or a significant misbehaviour that improperly appropriates the intellectual property or contribution of others.
 - a) Giving two examples for each term, 'falsification', 'fabrication' and 'plagiarism', justify the importance of enforcement of professional code of ethics by professional societies. **(25)**
 - b) Describe four strategies that can be put in place in a tertiary learning institution towards 'primary' OR 'secondary prevention' of scientific misconduct. **(25)**
 - c) Using 5 different case scenarios, analyze the ethical implications of scientific misconduct in the professional field of health care and research that could result in maleficence. **(25)**
 - d) Explain the research ethics concerns that need to be addressed during the conduct of each of the four phases during clinical trials. Give relevant and current examples where possible. **(25)**
2. Distribution of limited healthcare resources (money, time, equipment, staff, transplant organs, etc) requires setting of priorities and mindfulness to a number of ethical considerations.
 - a) Highlight any ethical considerations/arguments that you would take into perspective when conducting prioritization in each of the following situations:
 - i. Provide treatment for parents with dependent children as higher priority compared to non-parents? **(10)**
 - ii. Treating a greater number of patients or fewer patients with a greater need? **(10)**
 - iii. Treatment that prolongs life or treatment that improves the quality of life? **(10)**
 - iv. Established expensive treatments or cheaper experimental treatments? **(10)**
 - v. Two-bedded Intensive Care Unit faced with more than two patients in need of ICU admission? **(10)**
 - b) In the study of professional ethics, the following are examples of practices that constitute 'medical negligence': Discuss the ethical arguments against each of the 5 practices highlighted below:
 - i. Failure to take the patient through adequate Informed consenting procedure **(10)**
 - ii. Breaching the duty of medical confidentiality & access to medical information **(10)**
 - iii. Concealing information about the patient's health from them **(10)**
 - iv. Crossing professional boundaries and engaging in intimate relationship with patient **(10)**

v. Ignoring a patient's advance directives **(10)**

3. The case of 'Typhoid Mary' has been cited as an example of the oppressive nature of public health law in action.
- a) Discuss ethical arguments for governments instituting public health law activities that go against individual human rights in order to curb the spread of infectious disease **(25)**
 - b) Explain how any of the four universal ethical principles were violated during the course of engagement between Mary Mallon (1869-1938) and government health officials. **(25)**
 - c) Identify and analyse 5 case scenarios from any of the African countries where public health law has been instituted, justify the processes for, and against each scenario. **(25)**
 - d) Explain five (5) critical elements of Informed consenting process in a health care setting **(25)**

THE END