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The Humaine Ethics Committee Ian Sneddon - QUB

WP10 Workshop, Vienna,
November 6-8, 2006

Role of Humaine Ethics Committee

- Committee must be functional
- Function to meet the needs of the Humaine research community
- What are those needs?

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Role of Humaine Ethics Committee

The Ethical Audit (Goldie & Döring, 2004) revealed...

1. large number of studies involving human participants
2. many researchers have no access to ethics committee

Many researchers also have little or no background in human research

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Role of Humaine Ethics Committee

1. Answer questions on research ethics and offer advice on procedures and best practice
2. Review any humaine research involving human participants not already scrutinised by an ethics committee

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Role of Humaine Ethics Committee

We circulated a very short questionnaire (4 questions) asking about present and future research projects and their access to an ethics committee

We received 29 replies from 23 partners

13 (45%) were conducting research involving humans

Of these 13, 7 do **not** have access to an ethics committee

Of these 7, 5 intend to submit or have already submitted applications to us

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Ethical Issues

- The Ethical Audit (Goldie & Döring, 2004) revealed...

Although 88% of respondents were conducting research involving human participants – over 80% of these researchers thought their research posed no risk to participants

(they are probably correct)

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Ethical Issues

- Increasing acceptance of the principle that the researcher should not be the sole judge of whether their research poses ethical problems

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Ethical Issues

- The documentation required can seem fussy and bureaucratic
- but it is important that anyone assessing research gets consistent and appropriate information

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