

## **Area of Activity II: Science Ethics and Human Rights**

### **Rationale**

The ethical underpinnings of research will be enhanced by raising the visibility of human rights principles as part of the practice of science, in the broadest sense, including but not limited to scientific research. Explicit linking of international human rights principles to science ethics enhances recognition that science and technology have both direct and indirect implications for humans and the world in which we live. Doing so also will serve to promote a common respect for those involved in, or affected by scientific research, regardless of institutional context. If ethics codes guide the work of scientists and help them identify with a profession, more firmly linking these to human rights principles will serve to bridge scientists across professions and geographical boundaries. These efforts will help to emphasize that science is not an exception in the application of human rights principles.

### **Objectives**

- Appreciation by scientists and scientific associations of the relevance of human rights to science ethics;
- Engagement of scientific societies in the promotion of human rights principles in science practice and professional activities; and
- Infusion of human rights principles throughout the human research protection system.

### **Content**

- Assemble and review ethics codes of scientific societies (life, physical, behavioral, and social), highlight those that are exemplars in integrating human rights principles with scientific ethics and practice, and identify those principles that are applicable across the sciences;
- Develop a set of common principles to guide scientists in the conduct of science in a manner consistent with human rights principles;
- Consider how to integrate a human rights framework more fully into the ethics codes of research societies and scientific associations;
- Examine ethical frameworks for conducting human research to identify areas in which human rights principles could improve process or practice (identify what a human rights approach adds to the current framework);
- Encourage IRB processes that are more clearly grounded in a human rights framework; and
- Develop best practices for how to affect IRB reform in human rights terms.

### **Support**

- Financial: minimal resources
- Human: coalition or other volunteers
- Material: periodic meetings