2010-03

PubPol 580 - Values, Ethics, and Public Policy, Fall 2009

Chamberlin, John

http://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/78190
Biobanking: Honoring Donors’ Rights
Biobank Basics

Collection of biological material and data
Information available for research
Have existed since the 1800s
Registries and surveys prompted recent attention
Questions of Morality

- Consent procedures
- Confidentiality
- Research results
- Incidental findings
Consent Procedures

• Blanket consent
  • No restrictions on researchers
  • European preference and emerging trend
• Tailored consent
  • Choices about research types
  • American preference
Consent Procedures

- Blanket consent disadvantages
  - The more general, the less informed
  - Only broad descriptions about the purpose are available
Consent Procedures & Confidentiality

- Tailored consent advantages
  - Types of research
  - Uses of data
  - International sharing
  - Commercial partners
  - Link data to personal and medical information
  - Can re-contact donors
Research Results

- Normally published long after the study began
- Published in science journals
- Not always published
  - No value
  - Misleading information
Incidental Findings

- Individual research participant
- Potential health or reproductive importance
- Discovered in the course of conducting research
- Beyond the aims of study
My Position

Reduced level of social benefit in return for honoring rights of donors
Biobanking: Honoring Donors’ Rights

Questions and Conversation