

Unit 4: Medical Ethics

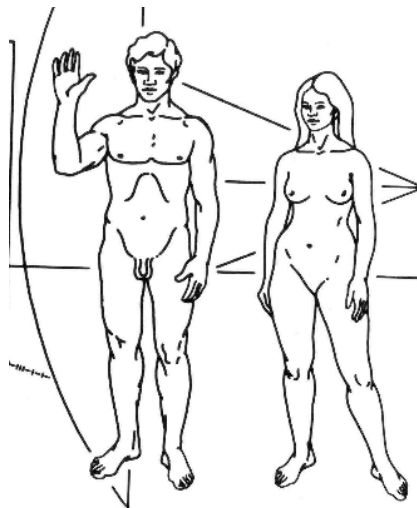
US275 Scientific Ethics
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Arcadia University



1

How the body works

- Describe how the different systems of the body function to do specific body tasks.
- Describe the basic levels of organization in the body.



2

No Assignment!

No assignment for this topic.

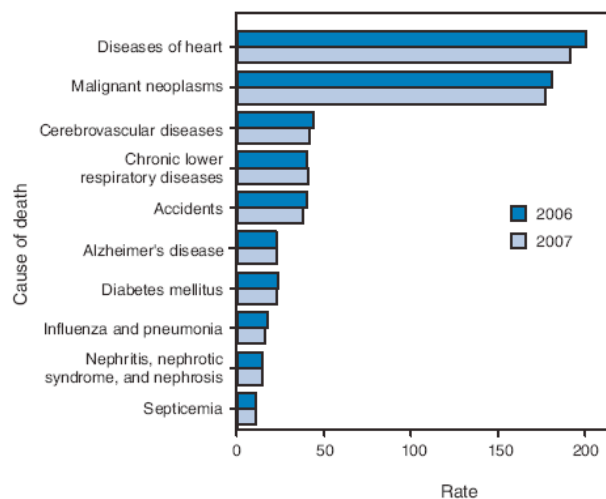
Take time to read through the information on the SEER Anatomy & Physiology module.



3

Diseases and their causes

- Identify the major causes of death in the United States.
- Briefly describe the disease process associated with the cause of death.



4

Assignment

18. How should we allocate funds to research cures for diseases?

The National Institutes of Health are the primary funder of biomedical research in the United States. Even with an annual budget of approximately 32 billion dollars, the funds have to be allocated to research investigating a range of diseases and many projects are not funded. Each year people argue for more money for specific areas. Disparity appears when you look at the amount of funds by number of deaths from the disease, number of people affected by the disease, cost of treating the disease, etc.

In your discussion group:

Discuss what criteria should be used in deciding what proportion of available funds should be allocated to support research for a specific disease type.

5

Understanding Clinical Trials: Development of a new drug.

- Describe the specific goals of the different levels of clinical trials.
- Explain the importance of positive attitude in the treatment of diseases.



6

Assignment

19. Cure Interrupted

Patients Upset over end of Parkinson's Drug Trial: Risks associated with experimental drug leave patients in limbo. (December 28, 2004). ABC News. <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/story?id=363348>

Cure Interrupted? Human Guinea Pigs Bewail Withdrawal Of Experimental Drug. (September 11, 2005). CBS News. <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/09/08/60minutes/main828098.shtml>

Human Guinea Pigs: (video) (September 13, 2005). CBS News, 60 minutes. (approximately 3 minutes). http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?id=833966n

In your discussion group:

Discuss with other members of your group the question: *Must the sponsors of a clinical drug trial follow the absolute mandate and requirements established in the Belmont Report and the Food and Drug Administration and terminate a study, even though the subjects want to continue receiving access to the experimental drug. Assume that the experimental drug in question does not appear to have a documented therapeutic effect and does not appear to have any harmful side effects.*

Ethical issues around the costs of prescription drugs.

- Describe the economics associated with the development and sale of a new prescription drug.
- Explain how and why there are differences in drug costs in different regions of the world.





Assignment

20. Drug costs.

Watch the ABC news video. Vital Cancer Drug Shortage at: <http://abcnews.go.com/WNT/video/vital-cancer-drug-shortage-leukemia-cytarabine-chemo-therapy-treatment-13378686>

In your discussion group:

Pharmaceutical companies have to balance the goals of producing safe and effective medications while continuing to stay in business by generating a profit. However, the costs of certain vital medications may limit their availability low-patients, production rates limits the supply of medication in circulation, and other medications may not be available across the globe. At a time when illegal drugs can be obtained relatively easily, what can be done to ensure ready access to needed medications?

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Any Questions?

Email me at:
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