

Ethical issues with research in complementary and alternative medicine

Ruth Fischbach, PhD, MPE

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12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Richards - Courmand Library
New York-Presbyterian Hospital
622 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032

The use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) has grown dramatically in recent years, as has research into the safety and efficacy of CAM treatments. Minimal attention, however, has been given to the ethical issues relating to research on CAM. The needs of public health and safety demand rigorous research evaluating CAM therapies, adhering to the same ethical requirements applied to all clinical research, and randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trials should be used to assess the efficacy of CAM treatments whenever feasible and ethically justifiable. The seminar also explored the legitimacy of providing CAM and conventional therapies that have been demonstrated to be effective only by virtue of the placebo effect.

This brown bag lunch featured Ruth Fischbach, PhD, MPE, Professor of Bioethics and Director of the Center for Bioethics, and a Faculty member in the Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Department of Sociomedical Sciences, and the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.