Role of Different Categories of Ethics Committee Members

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• Constitution of ethics committee
• Requirement for membership
• The role of members
• Confidentiality
Objective

- To introduce learners to the role of ethics committee members
• Membership of ethics committee is diverse with individuals playing specific roles
Who is Member

- An ethics committee member is somebody nominated by the head of a host institution based on expertise & recognized role in the committee.
Constitution of Ethics Committee

- Membership is constituted by the head of research institution
- An ethics committee consist of at least five member
- If more than five, the membership should always be odd number
Requirement for Membership

- Expertise
- Experience
- Diversity of the member
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Religion
  - Socio-cultural background
The Role of the Members

- **Expert:**
  - Responsible for the scientific content of the protocol

- **Ethicist:**
  - Responsible for the ethics content of the protocol
The Role of the Members

- **Community Representative/Lay Person:**
  - Protects the interest of community by ensuring that ethics committee pay attention to culture of the research community

- **Legal Representative:**
  - Ensure that ethics committee’s decisions do not contravene the law
The Role of the Members

- **Priest/Imam**: Guides the committee to pay attention to the tenets of religions they represent

- **Co-opt Member**: An individual experienced and working with vulnerable population

- Some members may play dual role e.g gender, priest etc
Confidentiality

- All members must pledge confidentiality
  - About all meetings held
  - Deliberations
  - Decisions
  - Applications
  - All matters that come to his/her knowledge