

製品開発と研究倫理：過去・現在・未来 — 「用途の両義性」問題の岐路における視野

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Product development and research ethics: the past, present and future — At the crossroad of the “dual use” of technology

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Abstract

Background : In March 2017, the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) resolved the “Statement on Research for Military Security” which reaffirm their previous statements of 1950 and 1957 pledging themselves to never engage in scientific research for military purpose. This 2017 statement was a response to the research funding program entitled “National Security Technology Research Promotion” starting in 2015 by the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency (ATLA) of Japan. The SCJ, stressing academic autonomy and transparency, recommended research institutes and academic societies in Japan to establish guidelines and review mechanisms to evaluate “appropriateness” of potential “dual-use” research.

Objective : To clarify the impact of the statement on the ethics of research involving humans.

Findings : (1) As human research intends to promote health and well-being of humans, it is subject to both the value judgement and regulatory control especially in the stage of product development; (2) The SCJ statement evoked academic institutes and societies relatively sluggish reactions in both terms of guideline development and engagement in the ATLA’s program; (3) We previously proposed a principle to avoid conflict of interest between medical researchers and military industry prompted by the ethical issues concerning dual commitments in medical publications and arm fairs; (4) The World Medical Association has consistently published documents to clarify physician’s mission to protect health and to protest against weaponry; (5) 2016 revision of the CIOMS ethical guidelines on health research highlighted disaster (including war conflict)-related research referring “social value” as a condition of ethical justifiability of research in addition to scientific validity.

Conclusion : We should expand the scope of research ethics covering not only a view of human rights but also a view of humanity to avert the misapplication of medical knowledge for the military purpose.

Key words

human rights law, humanitarian law, dual-use technology, war ethics, research involving humans

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