

## 2.11 Prof. Kim Ock-joo, Seoul National University, South Korea

Summarised by Kurihara C.

Prof. Kim Ock-joo is a well-known Korean bioethicist, whom Kurihara met many times previously. It was very nice to be able to see her at WMA's regional meeting in Washington DC and then in at General Assembly in Helsinki. At the Washington DC meeting, a speaker representing US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) argued to deregulate the core principle of the DoH which defines that the purpose of research can “*never take precedence over the rights and interests of individual research participants*” (paragraph 7, previously 8). Then Prof. Kim immediately expressed a strong objection on it. It was impressive that she stated that during educational lecture to her students and researchers she always emphasizes this important principle. This is the same as in Japan.

At the same session in Washington DC, Kurihara also raised question to the representative of the Food and Drug Administration regarding her negative perspective on post-trial access, and also questioned after the completion of the session to representative of Office for Human Research Protection (OHRP) regarding her negative perspective on inclusion of the Declaration of Taipei in the DoH.

Just before this Washington DC meeting, similar argument as CDC representative was stated in *JAMA* by the immediate past Director of the US OHRP<sup>1</sup>. Clear objection was expressed from Japan<sup>2</sup>. This may suggest a difference of level of acceptable “research risk” between utilitarian (higher risk is acceptable for the sake of collective benefit) and deontologist (rights and dignity of an individual is a paramount).

Previous publications collaborating with Prof. Kim, including interview and lecture meetings in Tokyo can be found in this journal, previous issues<sup>345</sup>.



Prof. Kim Ock-joo, during the Council Session, October 18, 2024.

<sup>1</sup> Menikoff J. Protecting Participants Is Not the Top Priority in Clinical Research. *JAMA*. 2024 Jun 20. doi: 10.1001/jama.2024.7677. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38900422.

<sup>2</sup> Saio T. Preprint: Noblesse oblige of the WMA in peril: Saving its honor at the Diamond Anniversary. *Clin Eval*. Vol. 52. No. 3. [http://cont.o.oo7.jp/52pop/Preprint\\_Noblis%20Oblige.pdf](http://cont.o.oo7.jp/52pop/Preprint_Noblis%20Oblige.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Kurihara C. Revision of Bioethics and Safety Act in South Korea—Comprehensive system of human research subjects protection and quality assurance of research, comparing with Japan—. *Clin Eval*. 2012; 40(1): 790-90. [http://cont.o.oo7.jp/40\\_1/p79-90eng.pdf](http://cont.o.oo7.jp/40_1/p79-90eng.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Kurihara C. Human Research Protection Program and IRB review in Seoul National University Hospital—Interview with Prof. Ock-Joo Kim after observation of IRB —. *Clin Eval*. 2013; 41(2):421-30. [http://cont.o.oo7.jp/41\\_2/p421-30eng.pdf](http://cont.o.oo7.jp/41_2/p421-30eng.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Kurihara C. Trend of research ethics and conflict of interest management in Korea and Taiwan—Common sense in the world but uncommon in Japan—. *Clin Eval*. 2014; 42(2): 591-610. [http://cont.o.oo7.jp/42\\_2/p591-610eng.pdf](http://cont.o.oo7.jp/42_2/p591-610eng.pdf)