Author’s response to reviews

Title: Does policy grow on trees?

Authors:

Bartha Knoppers (Bartha.knoppers@mcgill.ca)

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
September 16, 2014

Edward Dove  
Section Editor, BMC Medical Ethics  
RE: “Does policy grow on trees?”

Dear Mr. Dove:

Please find attached an invited manuscript for consideration to be published as a “Correspondence” article in BMC Medical Ethics. I understand that BMC Medical Ethics has agreed to waive any processing fees for this “Correspondence” article.

The manuscript addresses some common misconceptions about policymaking, as well as the challenges associated with developing international policy for genomic and health-related data sharing. It points to the Framework for Responsible Sharing of Genomic and Health-Related Data, developed by the Global Alliance for Genomics and Health, as a case study. A unique feature of the Framework is that the Global Alliance and its partners use a principled approach grounded in human rights.

This manuscript would appeal to the BMC Medical Ethics readership. Genomic and health-related data sharing is a key concern for many researchers, and is of increasing importance as data are shared across international borders. Learning how policy develops can lead to better mutual, cross-disciplinary understanding among all involved in the medical ethics and genomic research communities.

I would like to confirm that the manuscript has not been published previously and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. There are no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the manuscript.

Sincerely,

Prof. Bartha M. Knoppers, Ph.D., O.C.