

Ethics and Global Health Issues

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Global health aims to improve worldwide health and achieve equity in healthcare access for all people. Global health means some form of supranational interdependency in promoting health in areas where joint international efforts may be effective, namely in infectious diseases or other global threats with global economic impact. The COVID-19 pandemic is a good example. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals is the international recognition of the ideal of a global society with the promotion of healthcare access as a basic right, environmental protection, and addressing climate change as part of the common humanitarian endeavor.

Global health faces new and important challenges. The impact of social media in public health must be properly addressed, namely, in uses such as universal vaccinations, skin cancer, reproductive health, and/or pharmaceutical advertising. Also, the digital economy, e-health, big data, and artificial intelligence are important tools for finding new treatment modalities worldwide and promoting global health literacy, namely in the low and middle-income countries. However, information and communication technologies in addition to artificial intelligence and related technologies must be used in accordance with universal ethical principles and guidelines, including respect for individual privacy, the need for robust data governance, and transparency and accountability in the decision-making processes.