

# Ethical Challenges connected to Research

Riccarda Pfeiffer, Ass. professor, Oslo and Akershus  
University College of applied Sciences

- Registered Nurse
- Studies in Nursing sciences (2 years), Psychology and Pedagogic
- Master in Philosophy: thesis in philosophy about science and science ethics
- Doctoral student at the philosophical faculty in Oslo: research on metaphysics and meta-ethics in nursing theories. Title: “Holistic Nursing – a challenge for the nursing discipline”
- Clinical experience: intensive care, nurse in anaesthesia, psychiatric nursing, geriatric nursing
- several articles and books on the history of nursing science, leadership an nursing science and the philosophy of science and science ethics in nursing science (under publishing)

# Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences

- **5 faculties** (one faculty of Health care science (nursing science, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, radiograph etc.)
- **Bachelor studies, master studies and 3 Phd-program**
- **Several research programs**
- **We are working to get university status**

# Faculty of nursing science

- Bachelor studies (ca 2000 students)
- Master in clinical nursing science and master in psychological health
- 6 further educational studies (which will be master studies in autumn 2014)
- 4 research programs
- 1 Phd- program connected to health care sciences

- In Oslo we are doing a lot of research, because nursing is a science
- We also have PT- og OT-studies. They also are doing reseach, because they are sciences
- Therefore we think it is important to focus the scientific aspect of health care professions in our bacholorprogrammes, but also in seminars etc.
- In the IPLA- seminar we have to think about science, research and research ethics connected to living aging.

# This lecture is about

- Science
- Science ethics
- Research about living aging carried out by health care scientists and their assistants (nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, students)

# Discussion

Which main characteristics do you associate with science?

Name 2 characteristics

## What is science?

- **Science develops and produces knowledge, which is objective, impartial, reliable and valid**
- **Science uses scientific methods to obtain this knowledge (quantitative and qualitative)**
- **Scientific knowledge must be verifiable, which means that other scientist must get the opportunity to discuss and criticize research results**



# **Science and Ethics**

**As every human activity science has ethical aspects**

# Discussion

Which main characteristics do you associate with ethics?

Name 3 characteristics

# Discussion

- What do you think science ethics is about?

Name 2-3 characteristics

# Science ethics

- Ethical theories about sciences and research (including health care sciences)
- Ethical norms in science (in contrast to methodological norms)
- Ethical methods and strategies connected to research (including health care sciences)

# Discussion

Research on living aging includes children, youth, adult/elderly/old persons and dying persons:

- In our context these person have health care problems
- What should we think about?

# Declaration of Helsinki (1)

- Regulates research on human beings, as the claim for *informed consent*
- It regulates especially research on very sick, unconscious or dying patients
- Dying patients will often not benefit from the research results

Therefore the ethical claims for that kind of research are very strong and have many restrictions

# Declaration of Helsinki (2)

- Regulates also research in health care sciences
- Represent obligatory ethical norms and values connected to reseach

# Groupwork

1. You want to know more about how to improve the quality of life for patients with dementia. Your patients live in a nursing home, where you work.
2. You are interested in the situation of children with cancer who have about 6 months left to live.

Choose one of the subjects above and create a possible research project from the perspective of your profession.



Discuss what ethical aspects you have to think about in your research project.

