Chapter 10

10.25 Research on animals. In Section 10.4, we quoted the 1964 Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association as saying “the interests of the subject must always prevail over the interests of science and society.” This applies to experiments with human subjects. What about experiments with animals?

(a) Do you think there should be similar or different standards for research involving animals? In a few sentences, state your opinion. (There are no wrong answers.)

(b) Visit the website www.stanford.edu/group/hopes/cgi-bin/wordpress/2010/07/animal-research/. What positions regarding research with animals are described at this site? Which of these positions do you favor?

(c) Visit either the website www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=7 or the site www.ccac.ca/en_/education/niaut/stream/cs-3rs. What are the three Rs of humane animal experimentation? Give an example of one way each of the three Rs might be satisfied.

10.26 Unethical experiments. In the early 20th century, the quest for knowledge resulted in many shocking experiments such as the Tuskegee study in Example 10.4. Online, at http://listverse.com/2008/03/14/top-10-evil-human-experiments/ you can find descriptions of ten such medical experiments and at http://listverse.com/2008/03/14/top-10-evil-human-experiments/ you can find descriptions of 10 such psychological experiments. Do any of these involve deceiving human subjects? If so, which ones?

10.27 Clinical trials. The National Center for Biotechnology Information website contains an article on the ethics of clinical trials. This article discusses issues such as randomized clinical trials, informed consent, the use of placebos and deception, blinding, exploitation versus overprotection of patients, and issues arising in oncological research. This article can be found at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3894239/. Read the section on oncological research at the end of the article. According to the article, what are the ethical concerns with the use targeted cancer therapies?