UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI & VA HEALTHCARE SYSTEM DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

Dialogue 3

Is the Belmont Report Adequate For Genetics Research?

Bernard Gert, Ph.D. Dartmouth College

12 Noon, Friday, December 15, 2006 Mailman Center for Child Development, Room 3023

> Lunch will be provided (No RSVPs required)

In the shadow of Tuskegee, the National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research was asked in 1974 to identify "the basic ethical principles" underlying human subjects research. The resulting Belmont Report identified three principles – autonomy, justice and beneficence – that have influenced research ethics and clinical ethics ever since. But this "principlism" is inadequate for many of the tasks to which it is put, genetics research being the best example. Prof. Gert's system of common morality is offered as superior to Belmont and its progeny.

Dr. Gert is Stone Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy, Dartmouth College, and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry, Dartmouth Medical School. He is author of *Common Morality: Deciding What to Do* (2004; paperback edition, 2007), and *Morality: Its Nature and Justification* (revised edition, 2005), and first author of *Bioethics: A Systematic Approach* (2006).

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