“Integrating Research Ethics into the High School Science Classroom”

6 p.m. Monday, November 5
1710 Sangren Hall, WMU

Moderator: Susan Stapleton, Dean, WMU Graduate College

Panelists:
Cheryl A. Dickson, Associate Dean for Health Equity and Community Affairs at WMU Homer Styker School of Medicine
Carrie Ferrario, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, The University of Michigan Medical School
Luke Perry, STEM Education Director, Battle Creek Area Math & Science Center
Michael Tanoff, Director, Kalamazoo Area Mathematics and Science Center.

Along with the increasing attention to science education has come increasing attention from federal agencies to research ethics; that is, the moral considerations involved in funding, designing, conducting and reporting scientific studies. These include such considerations as informed consent for human research subjects and conflicts of interest caused by partnerships between university scientists and private corporations.

Indeed, there have been a number of scandals in science caused by ethical lapses. Nevertheless, science education in high school – when potential scientists are first being socialized into their profession – tends to focus on the technical aspects of scientific competence when teaching students about “good” science. For example, the Next Generation Science Standards for K-12 education explicitly address technical competencies only. Can science be “good” if it is not also ethical? This panel brings together science educators from area STEM academies and medical schools to discuss the place of research ethics instruction in high school science classes and the degree to which it might foster ethical science cultures in high school and beyond.

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