# QUESTION FOR NOBEL PRIZE SCIENTISTS

The rapid expansion of biomedical research during the past fifty years has motivated periodic expressions of fear and alarm that human beings have been and will continue to be used as unwitting and unprotected object of scientific experimentation. Well documented cases of abuse as well as the growing complexity of biomedical research have undoubtedly contributed to a recent intensification of institutionalized efforts to regulated biomedical research. A number of these efforts have resulted from the initiative of scientists themselves to identify the demands of ethical responsibility in scientific research. According to a widely shared contemporary view, the classical declarations and codes of ethics governing experimentation with human subjects are no longer adequate. They are too general and, on some questions, too ambiguous to offer sufficient protection of human subjects in a variety of experimental situations. Regulatory commissions more eloborate and specific guidelines, and institutional review boards operating according to these guidelines are replacing the classical and more simple (simpler) codes and declarations. These commissions and boards increasingly enlist the participation of non-scientists.

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Some believe that this evolution of the ethical regulation of biomedical experimentation is, in general, a wise an beneficial trend. Others wonder if these trends offer an exaggerated degree of protection to the individual to the detriment of biomedical progress and to the disadvantage of the common good.

Is biomedical research too serious an enterprise to be left in the hands of the scientific community?