

Social Sciences Research Ethics Framework: Towards a National Guideline

Regional Consultation Meetings, 2004

Presentation 1: The Wider Context



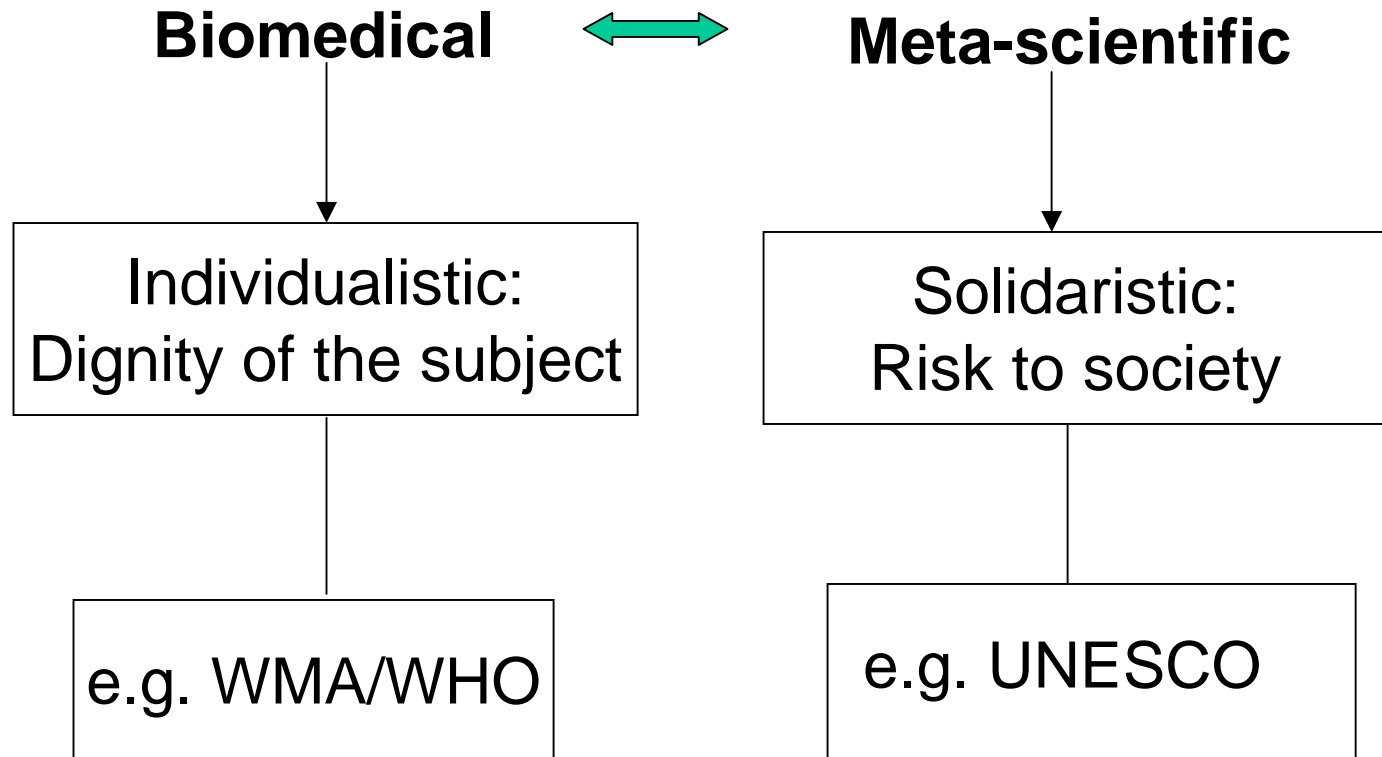
The wider context:

1. International developments
2. National developments
3. Implications for SSR?



**Research Ethics
Framework**

1. International Developments: Globally



International developments: at EU/ERA level:

Benchmarking: move towards standardisation?



EU Directory of Codes of Practice
RESPECT project

Ethics opinions: shaping future research agendas?



European Group on Ethics (EGE)



Research Ethics Framework

...and *Regulations*

The Clinical Trials Directive

International research governance more significant because:

- research is increasingly international in scope – via the EC, the ESRC's own priorities, e-social science, and international databases
- despite subsidiarity, non-UK regulatory frameworks will become increasingly relevant for the conduct of trans-national research



2. National developments

Increased level of formalisation and monitoring of ethics and governance procedures

Litigation and risk culture

Department of Health's Research Governance Framework

The Wellcome Trust report on research governance

Increased sensitivity to the terms of the Data Protection Act

Review and revision/update of professional and institutional practice/guidance (SRA, GSR, RAGnet etc)



Implications for SSR?

- Need to revisit, clarify and strengthen ethics review and research governance
- Do so in way that *makes sense* to domain of SSR
- Identify primary range of responsibilities for review etc
- Build new guidelines that complement other frameworks, secure their mutual recognition, and robust enough to act as custodian of good SSR in *changing* research context

