



# **CHALLENGES OF ERCs IN WESTERN VISAYAS**

*Presented by:*

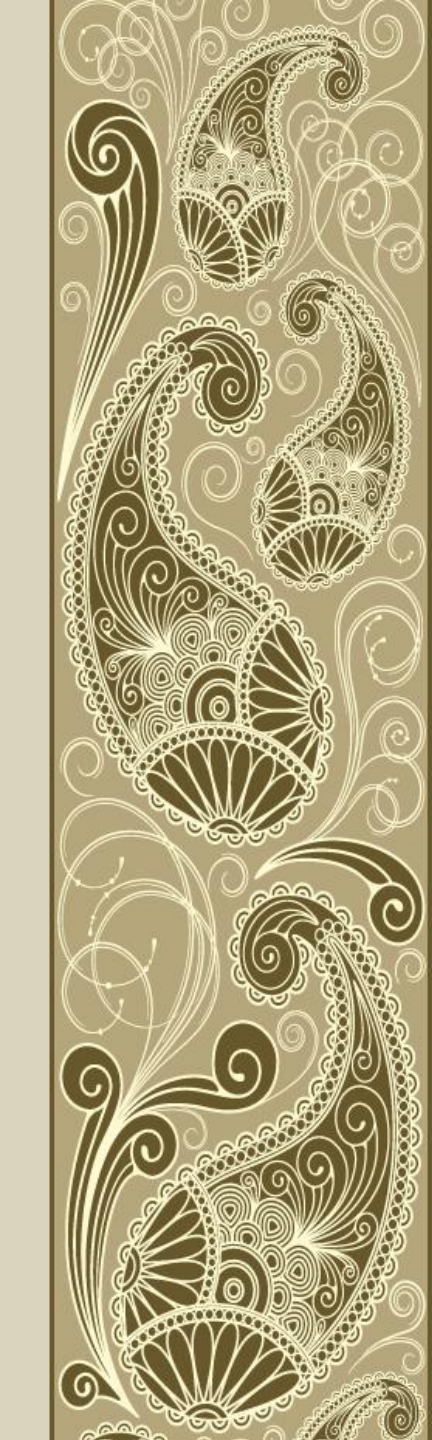
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**6th PNHRS Week Celebration**



# Outline of the Presentation

- Introduction
- Challenges of ERCs
- Challenges in Ethical Review
- Other challenges of ERCs



"As medical science expands into increasingly new horizons the ethical challenges are wide ranging & are becoming more complex for all stakeholders."

- Sharon Caris  
Health Ethics Committee,  
Australia

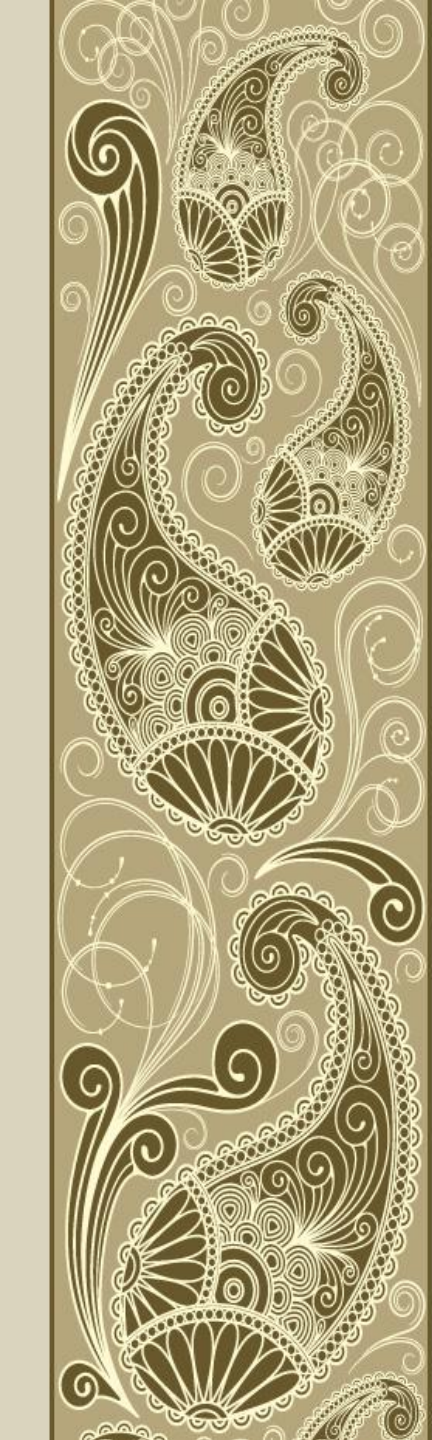
# CHALLENGES OF ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEES

**Ethical review**

**Capability building/  
Training in Research  
Ethics**

**Monitoring  
Approved proposals**

**Composition/  
Recruitment of ERC  
members**



# CHALLENGES OF ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEES

**Assessment of ERCs**

**Sharing of  
Information**

**Administrative  
Support**

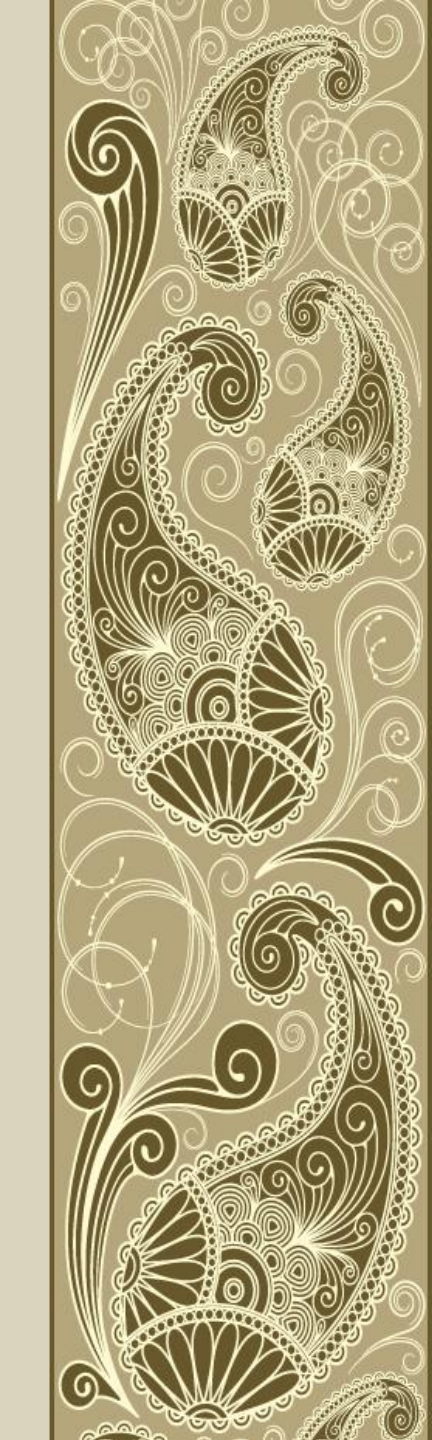
**Lack of Awareness  
for need of ERCs by  
institutions**

# 1. Ethical Review

entails an evaluation of the :

- balance of risks & benefits from the research
- fairness in the selection of participants
- validity of the informed consent process

Introduction to Health Research Ethics 2008 (PHREB. Angeles Tan Alora,ed.)

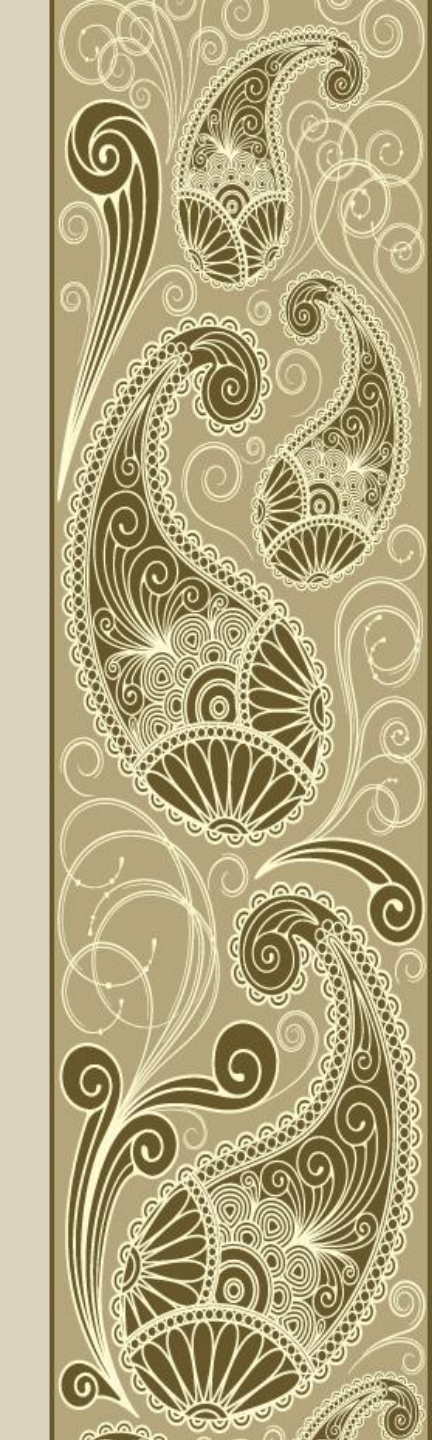
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- actual & potential conflict of interests
  - scientific soundness of the protocol
  - relevance of the topic of interest to the needs of the community



*Balance of risks & benefits from  
the research*

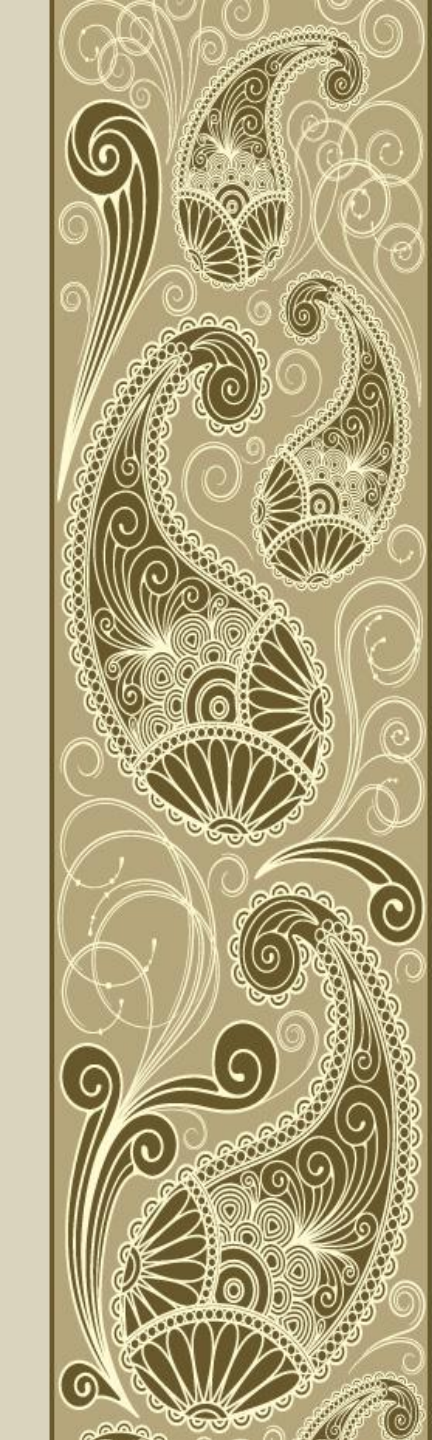
- vulnerable group  
e.g. pregnant



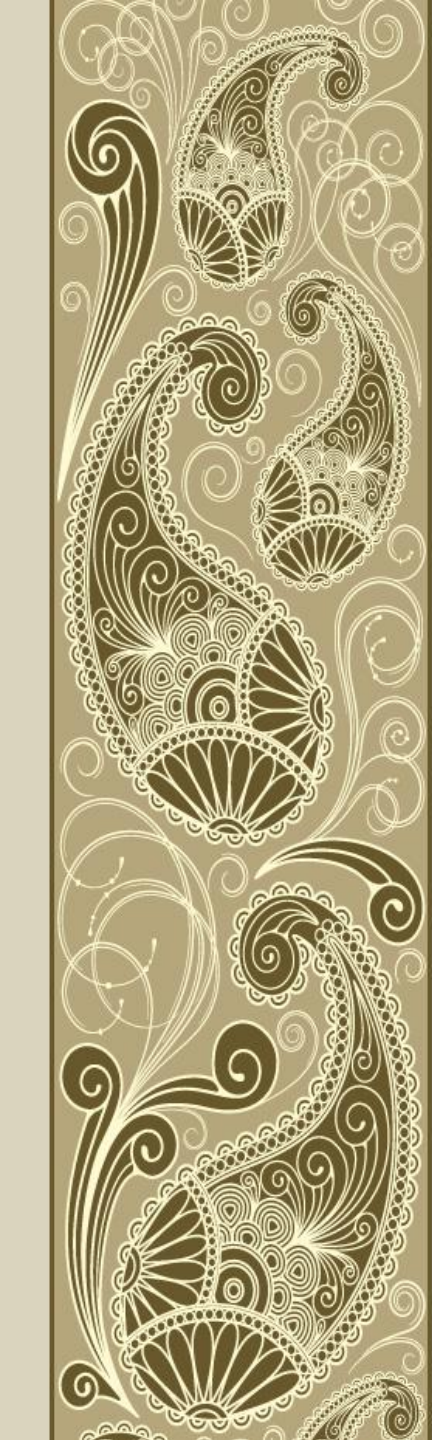


"Research must ultimately serve  
the interest of the people &  
communities rather than the  
interest of science, researchers &  
research institutions."

- Dr. Marita V. Reyes

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- *Balance of Risks & Benefits from the Research*
  - *Fairness in the Selection of Participants*
  - *Scientific Soundness of the Protocol*

US - based study on "Lifestyle Diseases & Preventive Management"



# *Validity of the informed consent process*

- lack of/inappropriate translation into the local dialect
- inadequacy of informed consent documents



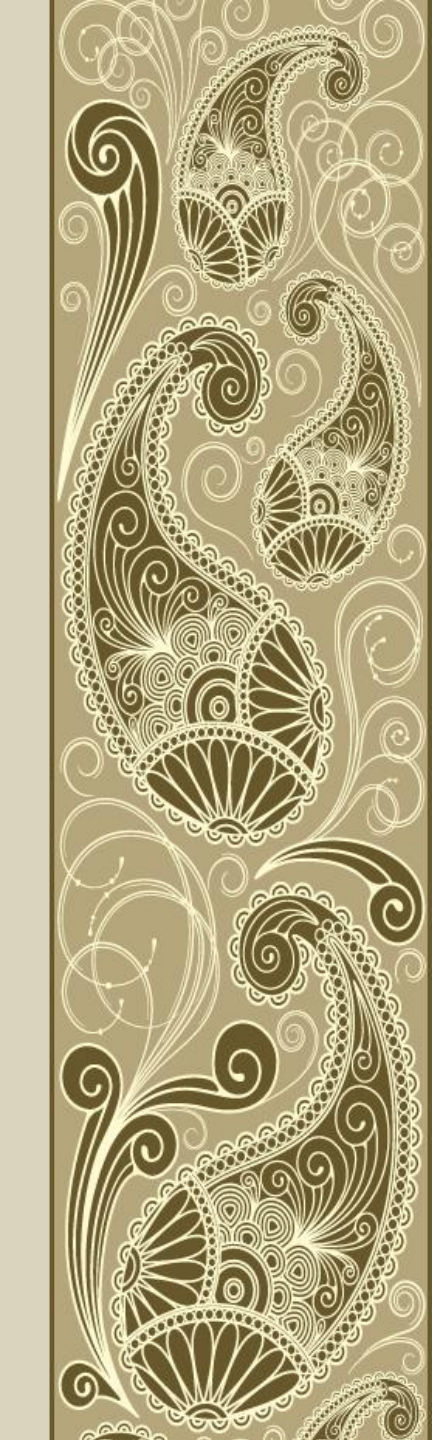
## 2. Monitoring of Approved Proposals

- lack of intra & inter- regional follow-up mechanism/s to monitor health researches
- lack of progress reports & final report from the researchers



### **3. Composition/Recruitment of ERC Members**

- inadequate membership from a broad range of specialties & backgrounds
- "extra job"



## 4. Capacity building/training on Research Ethics

- need for training programs/ modules

There is a need to develop the necessary skills of ERCs to perform their respective roles within the review process



## 5. Administrative Support

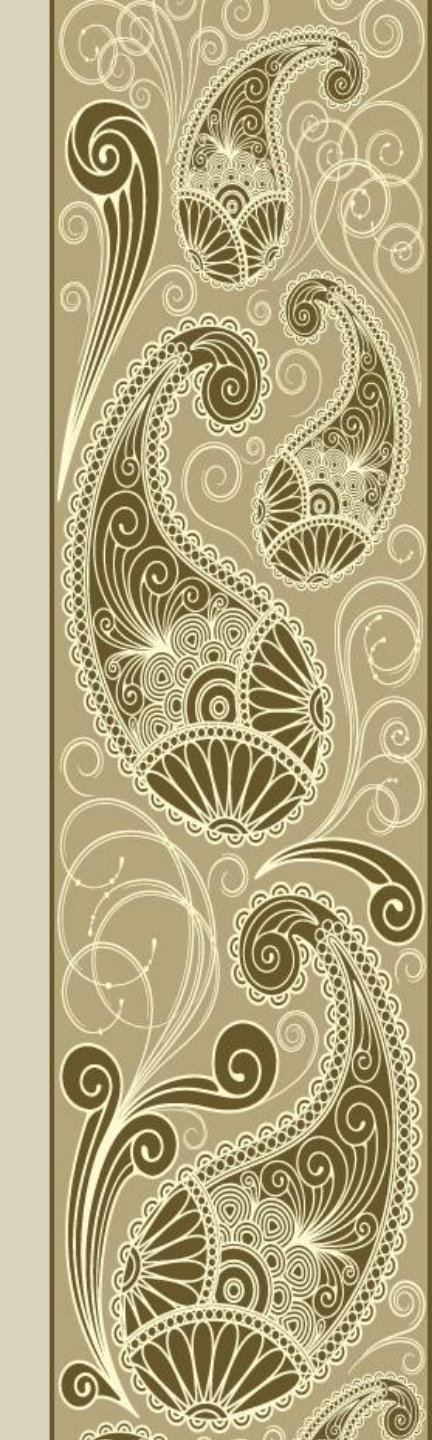
- lack of a full time administrative staff
- lack of office space & other logistics



## 6. Lack of Awareness by Institutions for need of ERCs

- some institutions conduct researches but lack ERCs or ethical approval of their studies





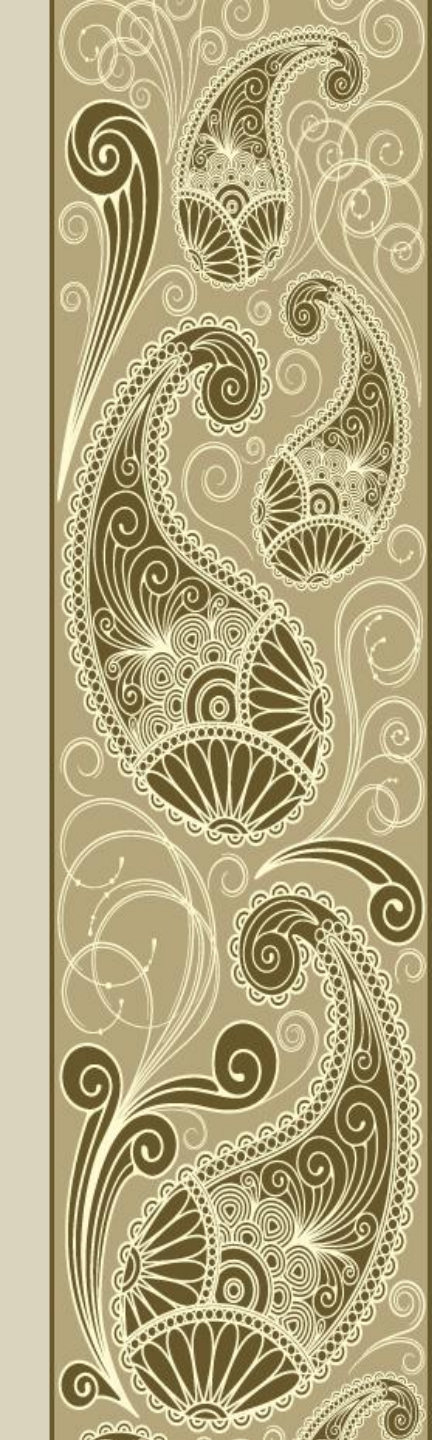
## 7. Sharing of Information

- need for conferences / fora to allow sharing/dissemination of good practice standards
- need for creation of Network/s of ERCs

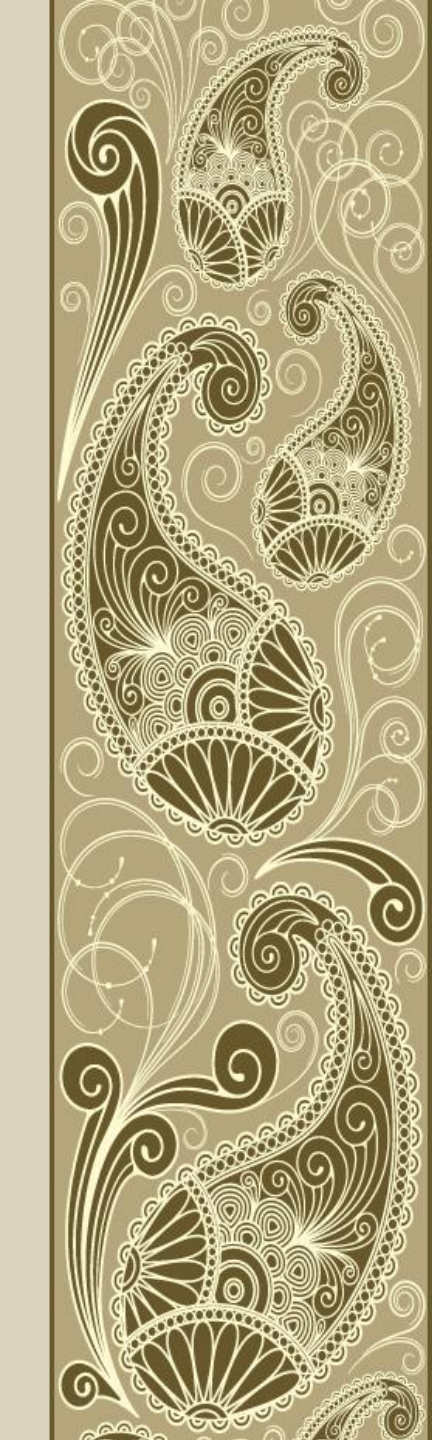


## 8. Assessment of ERCs

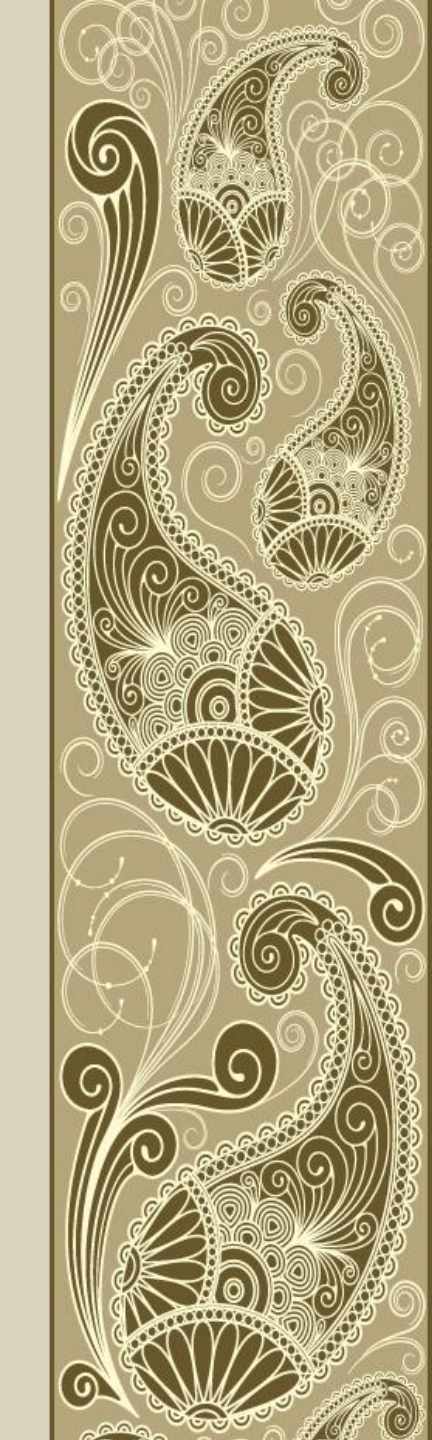
- PHREB
- Self assessment



"Let us (also) remember  
that a slower progress in  
the conquest of disease  
would not threaten  
society..."



...but that society would  
indeed be  
threatened by the erosion  
of those moral values whose  
loss,



possibly caused by too  
ruthless a pursuit of scientific  
progress,  
would make its most dazzling  
triumphs not worth having."

- Hans Jonas



***THANK YOU!***