Research Ethics in Africa: A Resource for Research Ethics committees
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Most maternal deaths (99%) occur in developing countries and 6.6 million children under five years of age died in 2012, mostly due to preventable diseases as they did not have adequate access to care.

Research is essential to address these common preventable diseases and provides evidence for cost-effective, affordable health care that is focused on the health problems of the particular region where it is being conducted. Unfortunately funding for research programmes is unaffordable for many African countries and historically Africa has had to rely on sponsors and researchers from high income countries to initiate and fund most of the health research that has been done over the last few decades.

It is critical that research participants with limited access to choice in health care options and from poor socio-economic backgrounds, are adequately respected and protected during the research process. For this reason this book will be a very useful resource for research ethics committees in Africa, who need to ensure that human participants are protected in health care research processes.

Furthermore, it is heartening that the book has been written by scholars from Africa, whose shared vision is the protection of human research participants in research. These authors have sought additional research ethics training to fulfil this duty. Their drive to do so comes from a personal commitment to the people of Africa. The book also aims to highlight research ethics issues from an African perspective accepting and acknowledging that many aspects and principles of research ethics are universal in scope.

I do hope that you, the reader, will share in the passion of these authors to ensure the protection of research participants in Africa.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
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