
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI/VA MEDICAL CENTER

DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

Dialogue 1

The Placebo Concept in Medicine and Psychiatry

Adolf Grünbaum, Ph.D.

University of Pittsburgh

1 p.m., Friday, Oct. 28, 1994

Bascom Palmer, Retter Auditorium

Special joint program in conjunction with Psychiatry Grand Rounds

The standard technical vocabulary used to define placebo therapies and experimental placebo controls in medicine and psychiatry is both confusing and obscure. To achieve conceptual clarity in the theory of placebogenic phenomena, this presentation offers (i) a rigorous articulation of the placebo concept, (ii) a lucid new terminology, and (iii) a substantial revamping of A.K. Shapiro's influential prior definition of "placebo." This analysis has a number of consequences for ethical issues surrounding use of placebos.

Prof. Grünbaum is Andrew Mellon Professor of Philosophy, Research Professor of Psychiatry and Chairman of the Center for Philosophy of Science at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dialogues in Research Ethics is a series of monthly conferences. For more information about the series, phone 547-5723, write to medical campus box M-825 or send e-mail to kgoodman@newssun.med.miami.edu. Sponsors:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ■ UM Forum for Bioethics & Philosophy | ■ Research Service of the Miami VAMC |
| ■ Vice Provost & Deputy Dean for Research | ■ S. Florida VA Foundation for Research and Education |
| ■ Department of Microbiology and Immunology | ■ School of Nursing |

