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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI/VA MEDICAL CENTER

DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

Dialogue 4

The Polio Vaccine Scandal — A Cautionary Tale?

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University of Pennsylvania

12 noon, Friday, Dec. 12, 1997
Rosenstiel Medical Science Building 3109

—————> Lunch will be provided <—————

In 1935, three respected American physicians were publicly chastised by their peers for participating in the inoculation of more than 23,000 children with experimental polio vaccines. The incident quickly found its way into American medical research culture. What is the moral of this story and to whom did—and does—it apply? This and related questions are especially important given current debate over use of children as test subjects for new drugs.

Dr. Tighe, a historian, teaches courses in medical history, policy, research and law in the Department of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dialogues in Research Ethics is a series of monthly conferences. For more information about the series, phone 243-5723, write to Medical Campus Box M-825 or send E-mail to ethics@newssun.med.miami.edu

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