

Dialogue 8

# Human Subjects Ethics in Russia and Guatemala: Venereology and the Gaze of History

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*Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow*

**Noon, Monday, July 25, 2011**

**Clinical Research Building (CRB) Conference Room 1179A**

Note variant day  
and venue.

—————→      **Please bring a lunch**      ←————  
(No RSVPs required)

Russian writer, philosopher and physician Vikenty Vikentyevich Veresaev (1867-1945) published *Memoirs of a Physician* in 1901. The book, which focuses on medical ethics, quickly generated great and sustained interest. After the first Russian-language publication, English, French and German translations quickly followed. Indeed, Veresaev's *Memoirs* were arguably a catalyst for the growth of European interest in medical ethics. In a discussion of "medical experiments on humans," he suggested that, unlike most other questions in the field of medical ethics, "for which there are no conclusive answers," these questions "have only one unequivocal solution." Veresaev chose to limit his analysis to one area of research, venereology, because it is exclusive to humans (i.e., there is no equivalent in animals). Veresaev's work provides a noteworthy historical touchstone for analysis of recently revealed U.S. syphilis research abuses in Guatemala.

Dr. Yudin is professor and corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) and head of the Department of Comprehensive Problems of Human Studies in the RAS Institute of Philosophy. He lectures on biomedical research ethics for the Moscow State University of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Yudin is the Russian representative on the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Bioethics and Vice-Chair of the Russian Committee on Bioethics for UNESCO's Commission of the Russian Federation. He serves on the International Research Panel of President Obama's Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

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135