

Dialogue 146

# Communicating Research Risks

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Although the importance of communicating research risks to potential participants is widely recognized, it is doubtful that standard disclosure processes are effective. Many participants may not fully understand and appreciate research risks – where such understanding is a requirement for valid consent. There is clearly room for improvement in communicating research risks. We will explore questions such as: What are the major barriers to effective risk communication? What are some ways to improve risk communication in clinical research? How should we assess the importance of improved risk communication relative to the cost of such improvements?

Dr. Iltis is Director of the Center for Bioethics, Health and Society and Associate Professor of Philosophy at Wake Forest University. She has published widely in bioethics, particularly research ethics. She serves on several National Institutes of Health data safety monitoring boards and holds a wide range of editorial positions, including Co-Editor of the Annals of Bioethics book series (Routledge), Senior Associate Editor of *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* (Oxford University Press), and Co-Editor of *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics* (Johns Hopkins University Press).

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