

Tuesday late morning session Track C, Tuesday, Sep 23 2025, 11:30-13:00

Location: Seminar 5

Session: Trust in Science

Chair: Anni Sairio

OR-12

College research ethics boards of Quebec, Canada (REBs): mandate, governance and resources

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A number of Quebec colleges have adopted institutional policies on research ethics and set up research ethics boards (REBs) in recent years [1]. These committees are mandated to ensure compliance with the principles of research ethics, as set out in the Tri-Council Policy Statement 2 (TCPS 2) [2], an obligation endorsed by the signing of the Agreement on the administration of agency grants and awards by research institutions [3]. Since research in the college network is conducted in small institutions, but yet rich, diversified and unique environment [1], the deployment of research ethics in this context raises some particular challenges [1]. Little research has been done on these challenges and has attempted to find solutions. The aim of this study was to characterize these issues by drawing on the real-life experience of the stakeholders in the ethics review of research projects. To achieve this, we conducted a five-week interactive consultation using a real-time Delphi platform. We felt that three issues were particularly important and that they were the focus of our attention in this study: 1) the limited resources for the evaluation of college research; 2) the complexity of evaluating multi-jurisdictional research projects ; and 3) the burden that can be placed on the evaluation of research activities conducted by students in the context of courses whose primary objective is pedagogical. This communication will be an opportunity to address the main conclusions of the Delphi study, which led to a publication, as well as setting out the tools developed as part of this research project to better support the research ethics community at colleges.

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[1] Masella M.A., Dupras C., Marceau E., Can J Bioeth, 7, 2-3 (2024)

[2] Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada, Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada, Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada. Énoncé de politique des trois conseils, éthique de la recherche avec des êtres humains. (2022)

[3] Instituts de recherche en santé du Canada, Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada, Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada. Entente sur l'administration des subventions et des bourses des organismes par les établissements de recherche (2020)