

TB MAC Newsletter April 2018

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Dear << Test First Name >>,

Please see an interesting opportunity to provide input on TB modelling and ethics below.

If you can contribute, please reply directly to [Justin](#) Denholm from the University of Melbourne.

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Hi all,

I'm writing to see if I can pick your brains about some ethical issues in TB modelling, and some work I'd like to do this year in promoting reflection about them. I know my own experience of TB modelling, particularly in public health and policy areas, has frequently raised some challenging ethical issues. There is, however, much less discussion about these issues than many that arise in my clinical practice. Last year, a new ethics working group for the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease was started, and we're keen to encourage engagement with real-world issues in all aspects of TB. This includes conference symposia, but we're also looking at some new and expanded opportunities to bring ethical discussion into a range of areas of practice.

At the moment, I'm soliciting input from TB modellers to get a sense of ethical challenges that have been encountered in your work. If you were interested in this, there are a couple of ways that you might feed this back. Options here are :

1. If you have a specific ethical issue that you've encountered in modelling, I'd invite you to write a short case synopsis of what happened (<200-300 words). I'd then solicit some commentary from one or more ethical perspectives, and we would then look to publish this as part of our efforts to encourage ethical reflection and debate on real-world issues around TB. If you were happy to do so, you would be included as a co-author.
2. If you had more general ethical issues that you thought were worth highlighting around modelling practice (for example, the influence of funders on model

outputs), then I'd also appreciate your thoughts about that. We've proposed a TB MAC symposia talk for The Hague Union conference in October which would deal with ethical issues and modelling, and I'd like to be able to touch on challenges arising from our practice as much as possible, rather than just a theoretical discussion!

Thanks in advance for your thoughts about all of this. Please feel free to [email](#) me directly with any questions or if more information would be helpful.

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Best wishes,
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