

*Prioritizing Vaccines for  
Disease Endemic  
Countries:*

Immunization Policies  
of Industrialized  
Countries Are Not  
Necessarily the Best  
Policies for Developing  
Countries



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# ***A NOBLE ERA IN VACCINES***

- The prominence of global health
  - President Bush: PEPFAR
  - Bill Gates
  - Harvard
- A Unifying Goal
  - Right and Left
  - Religious and Secular
  - Young and Not-So-Young



# *Importance of Ethics*

- Vaccine policy should be “ethical”
- Errors in ethical reasoning can be deadly
- Ethics and popular acceptability are not always in harmony
- Many ethical issues are barely visible



# *Save us from those ethicists...*

- Rise of research ethics
- Ethics and global health at WHO and beyond



## ***Exhibit A: Avoiding Double Standards***

- Research context:
  - Do not do a study in a poor country if it would be unethical to do it in the US
- Dilemma:
  - Therapies that are almost certainly not as good as the best existing therapy but which are much cheaper



## ***Exhibit A: Avoiding Double Standards***

- Vaccines: Wyeth Rotavirus vaccine
- “If it is not safe enough for American kids, it is not safe enough for our kids”
  - Ignoring the difference in mortality and morbidity due to rotavirus
  - How many avoidable deaths since then?



# ***The difference between us and them: Poverty and Disease***

- How do differences in health and wealth change the ethics?
- Avoid double standards? Everyone is of equal worth?
  - Paul Farmer's and Jim Kim's approach



# ***The difference between us and them: Poverty and Disease***

- Can the poorest countries afford our ethics?
  - Booster shots for vaccines?
  - Vaccinate the controls?
  - Ignore productivity in CEA?
    - Implication for discounting health benefits
  - Philippines: Aquino OKs exemption of kids from vaccines on entry to refugee camp
  - Effect of morbidity surveillance in vaccines

