

THE ETHICS OF PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION WITH CHINESE TRANSPLANT PROFESSIONALS

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A description of the project

1) Purpose: To determine what ethical standards should be developed and applied to collaboration with Chinese transplant professionals.

2) Context: There is substantial evidence of past and ongoing transplant abuse in China and, in particular, sourcing of organs of transplants from prisoners. The Government of China acknowledges past sourcing from prisoners sentenced to death, but claims that it has stopped. The evidence points to the sourcing of organs from prisoners of conscience, which the Government of China denies.

3) Questions: There are a number of ethical standards which have been developed which address the issue of collaboration with foreign transplant professionals complicit in abuse abroad. The questions that arise are the extent to which these standards should be adopted comprehensively world wide and applied today in the Chinese context.

4) Significance: The development and adoption of comprehensive ethical standards which are then applied to China could have a substantial impact on access to information on transplant abuse in China, transplant tourism into China and transplant abuse in China.

5) Approach: To look at the relevant ethical standards already developed both by national and international instances. The method would be to suggest how these standards could be systematised and made comprehensive. The strategy would be to use the implementation of these standards as leverage to combat transplant abuse in China.

6) Key findings: Chinese transplant professionals can be influenced by global peer pressure. The opportunity to use that influence can be better exploited by better development and application of transplant ethical standards.

7) Importance: The better development and use of ethical standards for professional collaboration with Chinese transplant professionals should impact not just on transplant research and transplant tourism. It should have an impact on transplant developments within China, as China seeks to integrate globally.