

## Brief Bio

Dr. Abha Saxena leads the work of the Global Health Ethics Unit at the World Health Organization – the world’s premier health institution that directs and coordinates global health through the United Nations system. She has responsibility for coordinating WHO's work on bioethics, and public health and research ethics. Internally, she heads Secretariats of the Research Ethics Review Committee (ERC), the Public Health Ethics Consultative Group, and the Global Summit of National Bioethics Advisory Bodies (NEC) as well as the Ethics Resource Centre. Externally, she ensures that effective global and intergovernmental action for health is based on ethical principles. Her team is the focal point for the examination of ethical issues raised by current agendas and activities throughout the WHO, including responding to regional and country offices, and Member States, and supports the implementation of ethical considerations in the elaboration and implementation of health policies and research activities at a global level, build global consensus on ethics topics and harmonize ethical standards. Under her leadership several normative and standard setting documents, as well as training tools have been published, both in the area of research and public health.

Trained as an anaesthesiologist, Abha Saxena was professor of Anaesthesiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India before joining WHO in 2001. In India, she had more than 20 years of experience in clinical and community based research.

### **Normative Documents published by WHO under her leadership:**

Managing ethical issues in infectious disease outbreaks: Guidance Document (2016)

<http://www.who.int/ethics/publications/infectious-disease-outbreaks/en/>

Ethics in epidemics, emergencies and disasters: Research, surveillance and patient care: WHO training manual (2015) <http://www.who.int/ethics/publications/epidemics-emergencies-research/en/>

Ethics of using convalescent whole blood and convalescent plasma during the Ebola epidemic (2014) <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/ethics-convalescent-blood/en/>

Expert consultation on the use of placebos in vaccine trials: Meeting report (2013)

<http://www.who.int/ethics/publications/9789241506250/en/>

Ethical Issues in Patient Safety Research: Interpreting Existing Guidance (2013):

[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85371/1/9789241505475\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85371/1/9789241505475_eng.pdf)

Standards and Operational Guidance for Ethics Review of Health-Related Research with Human Participants (2011): [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241502948\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241502948_eng.pdf)

Guidance on ethics of tuberculosis prevention, care and control: Guidance document (2010)

<http://www.who.int/ethics/publications/9789241500531/en/>

Casebook on Ethical Issues in International Health Research Ed. Cash R, Wikler D, Saxena A, Capron A. WHO, 2009

World Health Research Organization. International Workshop on National Health Research Systems (2001: Cha-am, Thailand) National Health Research Systems: report of an international workshop. 2002