

Preface

This edited volume is the result of a 5 day conference at Hannover Medical School in August 2013, focussing on current challenges in preclinical, clinical, and public health research from a research ethics and governance perspective. Experienced young scholars (postdoctoral researchers or PhD candidates) from different disciplines—medicine, philosophy, biology, public health, jurisprudence, and others—were invited to present their recent theoretical or empirical research in the field, and to critically discuss their findings with several leading experts, who also held separate workshops about current challenges in research governance.

We were delighted that most of the participants were willing to put additional work into their valuable contributions and to write the manuscripts that are part of this edited volume. Each chapter in this volume was peer-reviewed by another contributing author, as well as by the editors. Therefore, we are indebted to all contributing authors, who have not only put effort into their texts to make this edited volume possible, but who were also ready to review another authors' chapter and revise their own chapters based on its respective review, thus contributing to the quality of this book.

The chapters in this volume address a wide range of complex current challenges in biomedical research ethics and often propose new ways to handle them. The volume is valuable for all researchers in either research ethics/governance or biomedical research itself, in advancing academic debate and providing new perspectives or concepts for reflecting actual practice. However, besides being of interest to experts on the topic, the volume may also function as a source of supplementary reading for study courses in disciplines such as medicine, public health, applied ethics, philosophy, law, or social sciences.

We would like to express our appreciation to all participants as well as to the supporting staff (Britta Sander, Hannes Kahrass, and Irene Hirschberg) of the conference in Hannover; without their contributions, discussions and constructive critique, it would not have been the successful event that it was.

We would also like to thank Springer International for making this volume possible. Additional thanks go to the following people who undertook editing (Jan Schürmann) and proof reading (Anja Löbert/Textwork Solutions, Reuben Thomas).

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