

## Mana Tangata - Human encounters and authority from people

Eduardo Alfredo Duro, MD MPH.

Associated Professor in Pediatrics, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Morón, República Argentina.

The Ninth Global Forum on Bioethics in Research was one more step towards building a solid critical number of bioethics experts in Latin America and the entire world. The opportunity to see the development of central ethical values held in common by people across nations, cultures and ethnicities. An excellent opportunity to take account of the global agreement about the importance of avoiding unnecessary pain and suffering and to protect the vulnerable.

By attending the meeting I found the time to share not only activities with representative experts from all Americas and the South Pacific, places that also have dense original populations, but to be greatly surprised by the coincidence of ancient values told in different cosmogonists. One example, the incredible cosmogonist that in Māori is Mana Tangata: *"Lawful permission delegated by the gods to their human agents and accompanied by the endowment of spiritual powers to act on their behalf and in accordance with their revealed will"*.<sup>1</sup>

Nadowa, Inuit, Cree from North America; or Q'om, Tupí Guaraní, Wichí, Kolla from South America; or Togee, Pyemairrenner, Plairmairrenner from South Pacific Area or Tzotzil, Ki'che, Bri Bri from Central America and others Original Nations constitute important vulnerable population living as ethnic minorities in marginalised communities. A culturally different people with chronic experience in extreme poverty and unemployment, wherefore migrant.

Indigenous Peoples, particularly migrant and poor needs singularly health care and epidemiological studies of their problems. Highly stigmatised in a new local "white" society, this context is important for research in Public Health and Clinical Practice necessary for the improvement of health policies.

This event has contributed substantially to improve ethical guidelines for health research expanding the opportunities in the field of bioethics in the Americas; using the New Zealand *Guidelines for Researchers on Health Research Involving Māori (2008)*.<sup>2</sup>

In these guidelines, the Health Research Council of New Zealand has identified a number of factors that will enhance the engagement process including the appropriate use of Indigenous language, the appointment of Original Nation advisory groups, the principle of participation and respect for cultural views.

Indigenous communities are distinct communities with common interests about their needs of protection. Therefore, critical reflexivity is needed to examine the researcher's impact in the field of research, particularly when Indigenous Peoples' world view has a deeper significance to customs that can be observed.

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<sup>1</sup> Williams' *A Dictionary of the Māori Language*.

<sup>2</sup> *Guidelines for Researchers on Health Research Involving Māori*, Health Research Council of New Zealand, 2008.