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November 10, 2011

Bioethics Commission to Discuss Human Subjects Protection Report due to President in December

Who: Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues

What: Public Meeting

When: Day one: Wednesday, November 16, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Day two: Thursday, November 17, 9 a.m. - noon

Where: New Research Building at Harvard Medical School

The Joseph B. Martin Conference Center

77 Avenue Louis Pasteur Boston, MA 02115

Topic: Human Subjects Protection

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues will publicly meet November 16-17 in Boston. This will be the last meeting before the Commission issues its contemporary assessment of the rules and regulations that protect human subjects in research funded by the federal government. That report will be delivered to President Barack Obama in mid December.

Following the revelation last fall that the U.S. PHS supported research on sexually transmitted diseases in Guatemala from 1946 to 1948, President Obama tasked the Bioethics Commission with two assignments: 1. oversee a thorough fact-finding investigation into the specifics of the studies (released in September); and 2. assure him that current rules for research participants protect people from harm or unethical treatment, domestically as well as internationally (due in December).

This meeting is free and open to the public on a first come, first served basis. The Commission will do its best to accommodate requests to speak. Written comments will also be accepted and are especially welcome.

The meeting will be live-streamed and archived on the Commission website at www.bioethics.gov. Transcripts will be posted on the website after the meeting.

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