
5th century B.C.: Hippocrates: “Primum non nocere”/ “First do no harm.”

12th century: Rabbi and physician Maimonides: “May I never see in the patient anything but a fellow creature in pain.”

1718 George I offers free pardon to any inmate of Newgate Prison who agrees to be inoculated with infectious small pox in variolation experiment.
1796: Edward Jenner injects healthy eight-year-old James Phillips first with cowpox then three months later with smallpox and is hailed as discoverer of smallpox vaccine.

1833: Michigan physician Dr. William Beaumont studies digestion by carrying out experiments through a hole in the stomach of his patient Alexis St. Martin.

1845-1849 J. Marion Sims, the "Father of Gynecology" in the United States, conducts gynecological experiments on slaves in South Carolina.

1865: French physiologist Claude Bernard publishes “Introduction to the Study of Human Experimentation,” advising: “Never perform an experiment which might be harmful to the patient even though highly advantageous to science or the health of others.”

1874: Cincinnati physician Roberts Bartholow conducts brain surgery experiments on Mary Rafferty, a 30 year-old domestic servant dying of an infected ulcer.
1886: In his Harvard dissertation, Dr. Charles Francis Withington advocates a Bill of Rights to "secure patients against any injustice from the votaries of science."

1891: Prussian State legislates that a treatment for tuberculosis cannot be given to prisoners without their consent.

1892: German physician and bacteriologist Albert Neisser, the discoverer of the bacteria that causes gonorrhea, injects women with serum from patients with Syphilis, infecting half of them.

1897: Italian bacteriologist Giuseppe Sanarelli injects five subjects with bacillus searching for a causative agent for yellow fever.

1900: Walter Reed injects 22 Spanish immigrant workers in Cuba with the agent for yellow fever after having them sign the first informed consent agreement which promised payment of $100 if they survived and $200 if they contracted the disease.
6/30/1906: Congress passes the Pure Food and Drug Act creating the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration later shortened to the FDA.
1906: Dr. Richard Strong, a professor of tropical medicine at Harvard, experiments with cholera on prisoners in the Philippines killing thirteen.

1913: George Bernard Shaw coins expression "human guinea pig," writing: "The ... folly which sees in the child nothing more than the vivisector sees in a guinea pig: something to experiment on with a view to rearranging the world."

1914: Justice Benjamin Cardozo establishes the principle of informed consent in *Schloendoerf v. New York Hospital*, 211 N.Y. 125, writing: "Every human being of adult years and sound mind has a right to determine what shall be done with his own body?"