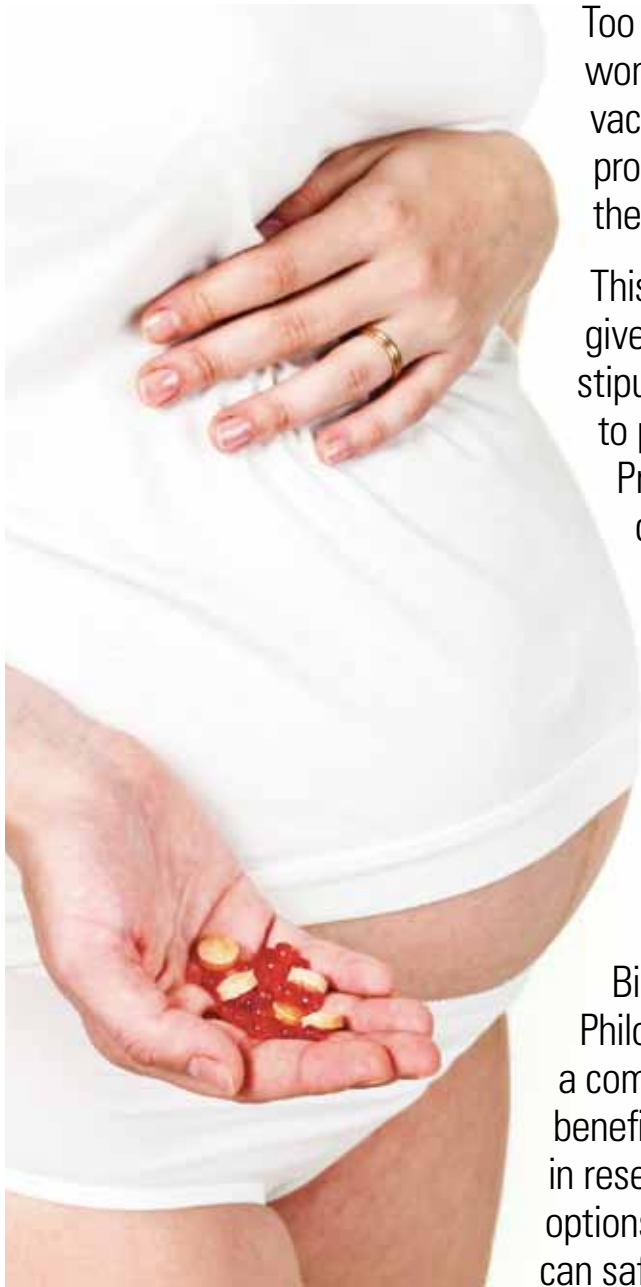


SCIENCE IN THE CITY

LECTURE SERIES

McMaster University is pleased to present this year's Bourns Lecture in Bioethics, a lectureship made possible by Dr. Arthur Bourns, President Emeritus, whose generous gift enables the university to invite a distinguished expert in the field of bioethics to present a public lecture to the community at large.

Research Ethics: The obligation to include pregnant women in research



Too often researchers exclude pregnant women from clinical trials of drugs, vaccines, nutraceuticals, natural health products and medical devices, because of the potential harm to the developing fetus.

This common practice is deeply problematic, given international guidelines that clearly stipulate pregnant women are eligible to participate in biomedical research.

Pregnancy is not an automatic exclusion criterion for clinical trials, and is ethically and medically unacceptable for two reasons: pregnant women get sick and sick women get pregnant. Pregnant women should only be excluded from research when there is a sound ethical or scientific reason to do so.

Join us on February 14 when Françoise Baylis, Canada Research Chair in Bioethics and Philosophy, and Professor of Philosophy at Dalhousie University, presents a compelling argument that outlines the benefits and limitations of pregnant women in research. Professor Baylis will also discuss options for how and when pregnant women can safely be included in clinical drug trials.



FRANÇOISE BAYLIS

■ Françoise Baylis

is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Bioethics and Philosophy at Dalhousie University. She is an elected Fellow of both

the Royal Society of Canada, and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Professor Baylis publishes extensively on ethical issues relevant to women's reproductive health, research involving humans and novel technologies. Her work in research ethics spans several decades, and much of this work focuses on the problem of exclusion from trial participation.

Initially Professor Baylis focused on the unjust exclusion of children from research. In later years, the focus shifted to the unjust exclusion of women from research. Now that it is widely accepted in principle, if not always in practice, that research involving children and research involving women benefits children and women respectively, Baylis has turned her attention to the unjust exclusion of pregnant women from research. The common thread for this work is the belief that persons should not be unfairly excluded from the benefits of research, or the benefits of research participation. Baylis has also advocated for relevant policy changes to both editions of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans.

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