

## **Monkeypox: What does ethics require for response?**

**12 September 2022, 1.00-2.00PM (London time)**

Monkeypox is an Orthopoxvirus that has been endemic to Central and West Africa for several decades. During 2022, monkeypox spread to over 100 countries, many of which are seeing cases of the disease for the first time. As a result, on the 23rd of July 2022, the World Health Organization declared monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern and made a series of recommendations for a global response. These include strengthening public health measures in affected settings and accelerating research into vaccines and therapeutics. However, preventive and treatment options are limited and other public health measures, such as contact tracing and risk communication, have proved challenging. This virtual seminar examines ethical considerations arising when responding to monkeypox.

### **Chair:**

- [Professor Michael Parker](#), Professor of Bioethics, Director of the Ethox Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

### **Panel:**

- [Professor Ayodele Jegede](#), Department of Sociology University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- [Professor David Heymann](#), Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- [Dr Hayley MacGregor](#), Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex and STEPS Centre researcher, UK

The following questions will form the basis of the seminar's panel discussion. Seminar attendees are invited to submit questions in advance of the seminar when they register or during the live discussion.

1. Does this monkeypox outbreak differ from earlier outbreaks in endemic areas in ethically significant ways?
2. Now that monkeypox has been declared a public health emergency of international concern, what steps should be taken to ensure countries where monkeypox has been endemic for decades receive their fair share of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines?
3. How can we ensure adequate global attention is given to infectious diseases that are endemic to, or affect, predominantly low- and middle-income settings in advance of those diseases becoming global emergencies?