

Antwerp, 17 February 2021

Dear Editor,

This is to confirm that the article entitled “Tricky COVID19 vaccine trials in times of vaccine nationalism” submitted to the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* is original and has been authored by the undersigned. The submission is not under consideration for publication in any other journal.

Details of sponsorship or relevant competing interests, financial or otherwise: not applicable

I have read the terms and conditions of authorship of IJME and accept them.

I think my paper is suitable for publication in this ethics journal, because it is an invited contribution to a theme issue on ethics of placebo controls in Covid-19 vaccine research. The theme issue was prompted by an article published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (N Eng J Med 2021; 384:2), which says: “*Countries with limited or no access to a known effective vaccine could thus ethically permit placebo-controlled trials of vaccines of potential relevance to them even if effective vaccines were already being marketed elsewhere.*” In my contribution, I contend that the use of placebo-controlled vaccine trials in countries that lack access to vaccines because of inequitable global allocation, would be unethical, as it builds on an unethical premise, i.e. a situation of global injustice in vaccines distribution.

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Signature of author:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raffaella Ravinetto', with a stylized flourish at the end.