

COVER LETTER

Dear Editor,

We have pleasure in submitting a short article titled, "COVID-19 Vaccine Trials and Ethics" for consideration of publication in IJME.

Rules applicable in peace times have to be modified in war times. Similarly, in the present crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, a vaccine is urgently needed to not only to protect individuals but also to control the epidemic. This is an unusual situation in which time is of the essence. We propose that there are ethically acceptable ways of fast-tracking vaccine candidates that have been proven safe and immunogenic in Phase I and Phase II trials.

We propose an ethical manner in which vulnerable individuals can voluntarily opt to take vaccine that is already in Phase 3 trial or is ready to enter Phase 3 trial. We request you to consider this paper as 'Discussion', a section that has appeared occasionally in IJME.

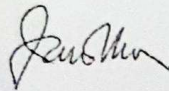
We have a special request. To be meaningful and useful in the present context of the raging epidemic, we request for a fast-track review process so that if found acceptable, it can be included in the earliest possible time in IJME.

We confirm that the manuscript is original and has been co-authored by the undersigned. All authors have participated in the work sufficiently to meet the ICMJE guidelines for authorship. All have read and approved the manuscript. The submission is not under consideration for publication in any other journal. We give consent to Dr Dhanya Dharmapalan to act as the author for correspondence. We have no sponsorship or relevant competing interests, financial or otherwise: We have read the terms and conditions of authorship of IJME and accept them.

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Yours sincerely,

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