Preamble
This symposium demonstrates the extent of collaboration between the USA and UK being sponsored by the Royal Society of Medicine; The Royal Society of Medicine Foundation Inc; Bureau of Biologics, Food and Drug Administration; Bureau of Drugs, Food and Drug Administration; Center for Disease Control; National Cancer Institute; National Eye Institute; National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; National Institute on Aging; National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; National Institute of Mental Health; Veterans Administration; and the Fogarty International Center.

Aims
Clinical research studies are vital to the development of new medical procedures and new drugs and biologics used for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. Such studies involve a variety of individuals and organizations: research investigators (including medical practitioners and statisticians), industrial and funding organizations, regulatory agencies, and the public. There is the obvious concern that the study design be scientifically adequate, but planners must consider a number of other aspects. The first is the necessity of the study; then further decisions must be made on the length of the study, a system of record-keeping, recruitment of subjects, the use of children or other special study groups, and compensation for injured subjects. The public’s role in planning, approving, and monitoring clinical studies must be kept in mind, particularly in light of growing issues regarding ethical aspects of research. Although the elements of clinical studies are common to all countries, the ease and security with which they are handled varies. Different laws, procedures for conducting studies, and health service delivery systems in different countries influence the experience and success rates of clinical trials. This conference was designed to facilitate an exchange of information and experiences on the major issues in research with human subjects. This volume reports the ways in which the United States and the United Kingdom handle some important ethical and administrative problems in the conduct of clinical research (Preface, page v).

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Authors
The authors are Gilbert W Beebe PhD (Clinical Epidemiology Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); CC Booth MD, FRCP, FACP (Clinical Research Centre, Harrow, Middlesex, England); Robert E Cooke MD (President, Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA); Dr J Richard Crout (Director, Bureau of Drugs, Rockville, Maryland, USA); George T Curlin MD (Chief, Epidemiology and Biometry Branch, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Program, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); F William Dommel Jr JD (Program Analyst, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); Dr Robert Gordon (Special Assistant to the Director, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); Canon Michael P Hamilton (Washington Cathedral, Mt St Alban, Washington DC, USA); John B Harman MD (Harley Street, London, England); Raymond Illsley BA, PhD (Professor of Medical Sociology, MRC Medical Sociology Unit, Institute of Medical Sociology, Aberdeen, Scotland); Louis Lasagna MD (Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Department of Pharmacology, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, USA); Desmond R Laurence MD, FRCP (Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, University College Hospital Medical School, London, England); Robert I Levy MD (Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); June K Lloyd MD, FRCP (Professor of Child Health, St George’s Hospital Medical School, London, England); Dr Thomas F Malone (Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); Charles R McCarthy PhD (Chief, Legislative Development Branch, Division of Legislative Analysis, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health,
Bethesda, Maryland); TW Meade BM, MRCP (MRC / DHSS Epidemiology and Medical Care Unit, Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow, Middlesex, UK); Dr William C Mohler (Associate Director, Division of Computer Research and Technology, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); Dr Seymour Perry (Special Assistant to the Director, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); William F Raub PhD (Associate Director for Extramural and Collaborative Programs, National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); Kenneth John Ryan MD (Chairman, National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research, Boston Hospital for Women, Boston, MA, USA); James B Sidbury MD (Scientific Director, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); Edward J Sondik PhD (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA); Dr Robert J Temple (Director, Division of Cardio-Renal Drug Products, Bureau of Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, Rockville, Maryland, USA); Professor DW Vere MD, FRCP (London Hospital Medical College, London, England); WE Waters FFCM (Professor of Community Medicine, University of Southampton, Southampton General Hospital, Southampton, England); and, Dr M Weatherall DM, DSc (Wellcome Research Laboratories, Beckenham, Kent, England).