

Three Unrelative Studies from Wuhan Children's Hospital Share the Same Ethical Approval

A recent investigation reveals that three unrelative studies [1-3] conducted by the team from Wuhan Children's Hospital, Huazhong University of Science & Technology, share the same ethical approval (grant number: 2024R151-E01).

DOI	Title	Author	Participant	Ethics Statement
10.1007/s10096-026-05533-1	Retail wet markets, food handlers, and hospitalised patients as nodes in a shared non-typhoidal Salmonella ecosystem: a one health molecular epidemiological pilot study in Wuhan, China	Feng Tang Zhi Chen Shiyong Deng Xiaomei Wang Xuyang Gong Ran Li Lei Xi Changzhen Li Baoxiang Wang Wanjun Luo	Anal swabs were collected from employees at food-handling workplaces under a voluntary occupational surveillance programme ... Sixteen non-duplicate Salmonella-positive stool isolates from unique inpatients were recovered through routine diagnostic culture at a tertiary paediatric hospital in Wuhan.	The study protocol was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of Wuhan Children's Hospital (Approval No. 2024R151-E01). Informed consent was waived by the Medical Ethics Committee due to the retrospective use of anonymized clinical data.
10.1186/s12916-026-04853-5	Fat-soluble vitamin deficiency in children with neurodevelopmental disorders: a cross-sectional study	Jingling Rao Xiaomei Wang Ping Zhou Yun Xiang Lei Xi Changzhen Li	This retrospective cross-sectional study was conducted at Wuhan Children's Hospital, China, from July 2022 to July 2025. Among all individuals who underwent routine vitamin-level testing as part of clinical care during this period (n = 112,396), we first restricted the cohort to children aged 1–18 years.	The study protocol was approved by the Medical Ethics Committee of Wuhan Children's Hospital (Approval No. 2024R151-E01)
10.1186/s40001-026-04712-2	Early identification of Kawasaki disease using an interpretable machine learning model with robust external validation and clinical utility assessment	Changzhen Li Xiaomei Wang Chi Zhang Jingling Rao Boan Jiang Yun Xiang Yanhong Liu Feng Tang	Children aged under 18 years admitted to Wuhan Children's Hospital (January 2015–April 2025) constituted the internal cohort ... The independent external validation cohort comprised consecutive children admitted to Hubei Provincial People's Hospital (January 2019–April 2025)	The Medical Ethics Committees of Wuhan Children's Hospital (Approval No. 2024R151-E01) and Hubei Provincial People's Hospital approved the protocol; written informed consent was waived due to the retrospective use of anonymised clinical data, consistent with the Declaration of Helsinki.

The topics as well as the participant cohorts were different in these three studies. For example, study [1] evaluated the transmission routes of Salmonella, the study [2] investigated vitamin deficiency in children with neurodevelopmental disorder, while the study [3] the developed an interpretable machine learning mode to identify Kawasaki disease. More ever, study [3] also include a cohort from Hubei Provincial People's Hospital, and the authors claimed approval was granted by the ethics committee of Hubei Provincial People's Hospital, however the approval number was not given in the article [3]. These suggest that the ethical statements in three articles [1-3] are questionable.

Tow common authors, Xiaomei Wang and Changzhen Li, were listed on these three articles [1-3].

[1] 10.1007/s10096-026-05533-1

[2] 10.1186/s12916-026-04853-5

[3] 10.1186/s40001-026-04712-2

This article is licensed to the 5GH Foundation under a CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 International License