

## **Assignment #2: Evaluating the ethics of medical trial design and the likelihood of phage therapy success**

### **Instructions:**

Read Chapters 31-36 (~65 pgs) of Arrowsmith his phage therapy trial and related activities, then answer the questions below

Book links:

<https://archive.org/details/ost-english-martinarrowsmith030614mbp/page/n335/mode/2up>

or

<http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks02/0200131h.html#ch28>

- 1) Describe Dr. Arrowsmith's phage therapy trial. Do you think this is an ethical way to conduct a medical trial? Why or why not?
- 2) Why was Dr. Arrowsmith reluctant to change his study design?
- 3) What are modern medical professional/bioethicist opinions on the use of controls drug/vaccine trials in human populations?
- 4) How are vaccine trials being conducted in the COVID-19 outbreak? Are/should control groups offered the vaccine immediately once a vaccine has proven efficacy?  
See December 31, 2020 N Engl J Med 2020; 383:2603-2615 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2034577
- 5) Would the prophylactic (preventative) use of phage work to prevent bacterial infections? Use literature to support your stance.
- 6) Were Dr. Arrowsmith's data from his phage therapy trial published in an ethical way? Why or why not? Was his trial still valuable? What would be a more forthcoming way of presenting his results?
- 7) How are female characters portrayed in the novel? What is the current landscape of the intersection of gender and biomedical research compared to that portrayed in Arrowsmith?
- 8) How are the residents of St. Hubert's portrayed in the novel? Are they true partners in the phage therapy trial? Do you think this is an example of medical colonialism?

See The Lancet VOLUME 394, ISSUE 10203, P996, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019 Transcending the guilt of global health