

IPRO 319: New Technologies for Cardiac Arrest Victims

Ethics Report

Many steps were taken to ensure that team members relate to each other in a manner that is fair, equitable and honest. First, our team split into groups so individuals could work focus on the area which interested them. Our subgroups consist of a shaker group, a cooler group, a patch group and a business/planning group.

Since our IPRO meets twice a week, one session is used to meet within our subgroups in order to work on the shaker, the cooler, the patch, and the business and planning aspects. The other weekly session is reserved for subgroups to present their work to the rest of the team and also express their plans for the following week. This meeting is an open forum in which the other team members can ask the subgroup questions, provide feedback, and present suggestions. Every team member is able to present ideas. During this time, everyone respects others' thoughts and opinions. Also, there is no official team leader. Instead everyone is equal and the work is divided up fairly.

Our project contains many ethical challenges. Since there are products with patents similar to ours, it is important to read through the patents and make sure we were not creating products similar to those described in the patents. Also, as a team, we keep a notebook with details of our products and any ideas which arise during the semester in order to document our work and progress in hopes of one day obtaining a patent on our products. A great deal of time is also spent ensuring the research supports our products. Currently, summaries supporting our products are being drafted with references included to show our products are both useful and supported by scientific findings. At all times team members follow ethical communication techniques with competitors, researchers and suppliers.

One ethical challenge new to this semester is the progression towards animal and human testing. While extensive mechanical testing will be performed prior to use on live subjects, the legal requirements to perform testing is currently being researched to ensure safety of all who are involved.