Table 1.
Number of Consultations by Characteristics of Requests (N = 23)[1]

Source of Requests	*Number*
Stanford University	14
Commercial entities	5
Other universities or research institutes	4
Awareness of the Consultation Services	
Not previously aware of BECS but knew SCBE or individual SCBE faculty	14
Had prior working relationship with SCBE member	5
Found BECS via SCBE website	3
Heard through the *Nature* news article	1

1. Of 23 total consultations for individual researchers.

Table 2.
Consultation Topics

Number of Consultations by Type of Research (N = 23)

Genetics-related research	Yes = 13 No = 10
Human subjects as main issue	Yes = 19 No = 4

Number of Consultations by Main Ethical Issues (not exhaustive or mutually exclusive) (N = 23)

Reporting research results and incidental findings	9
Conflicts of interest (one financial, one nonfinancial)	2
Concerns about research being used to inform medical decisions	3
Whether IRB review was required	2
Use of sham/blinding on control subjects in clinical trials	2
Privacy	1
Biosafety	1
Intellectual property	1
Research misconduct	1
Labeling of racial/ethnic groups	1
Unvalidated treatments in emergency settings	1
Liability in research	1

Table 3. Number of Consultations by Stage and Context of Research (N = 23)

Stage of Research	*Number*
During a research project	9
Prior to research	6
Publication or postpublication	4
Not a stage of research (e.g., about a company's products)	4
Research Context (Not Mutually Exclusive)	
Informed consent issues	8
IRB applications	8
Research design	6
Clinical application of research results	3
Grant proposal	2
Regulatory approval	2

Table 4.
Number of Consultations by Outcomes (Not Mutually Exclusive) (N = 23)

Type of Outcomes	*Number*
Changes to study design or procedures	9
Written report to investigator (five within 48 hours of meeting)	7
Modifications to grant proposals	2
Recommendations to modify institutional policy	2
Recommendations to obtain IRB review	2
Modifications to manuscript	1
Unknown (consultations still in progress)	3

APPENDIX. Benchside Ethics Consultation Service – Data Collected on Consultations

- Client name, institutional affiliation, status (e.g., faculty, student, fellow, staff)
- Date of initial contact
- Scientific topic of case
- How client came to BECS (e.g., via direct contact with consultant, nonspecific call to SCBE, referral from hospital ethics committee)
- Prior relationships with BECS or SCBE members
- Involvement of human subjects
- Stage of research (e.g., prior to research, during research project, during or postpublication)
- Context (e.g., grant proposal, IRB application, research design, interpretation or publication/presentation to media or lay public, regulatory approval)
- How request was made (e.g., email, phone, in person, Web site, pager)
- Time frame of request (e.g., by a specific deadline or undefined)
- Type of request (e.g., assistance with modifying grant proposal, advice on study design)
- Whether team meeting was used
- Consultants involved
- Date of team meeting and when report issued
- Level of confidentiality requested by researcher (e.g., full confidentiality, permission to discuss case anonymously, permission to discuss case with identifiers)
- Products and outcomes of consultation