

In Vitro Gametogenesis (IVG) Ethics and Policy Symposium

Monday 03 - Tuesday 04 June Scheltema, Leiden







https://wp.lancs.ac.uk/futureofhumanreproduction/



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The Future of Human Reproduction



Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to the In Vitro Gametogenesis (IVG) Ethics and Policy Symposium.

This symposium brings together international experts to explore the ethical and regulatory challenges raised by IVG. Over the course of the two days, we will share perspectives from European bioethics commissions and committees; academics with ethical, legal and regulatory expertise; the CEO of an IVG biotech start-up; and scientists working on IVG. By bringing these different voices into dialogue, we aim to facilitate the development of an international network to support more informed policy discussion regarding IVG.

This symposium builds on a previous project on IVG undertaken by The Future of Human Reproduction team in collaboration with the Nuffield Council on Bioethics. The culmination of this UK-focused work, a Policy Briefing Note, is due to be published later in 2024. You will hear more about this at the start of the symposium.

The conversations at this symposium, which is funded by an investment from the UKRI QR Policy Support Fund at Lancaster University, will inform the scaling-up of our existing UK-specific work on IVG so that it encompasses a broader range of perspectives and leads to a more in-depth understanding of the issues raised by this technology in different in-country contexts.

More broadly, the symposium also speaks to the aims of our £1m Wellcome-funded project *The Future of Human Reproduction: transformative agendas and methods for the Humanities and Social Sciences.* This seeks to push academic boundaries by developing new methods, research agendas and interdisciplinary ways of working to tackle the conceptual and ethical challenges that may emerge as technological advances fundamentally change the possibilities for human reproduction. IVG is one of the programme's three major research themes.

We look forward to some stimulating and thought-provoking discussions over the course of the event and to laying the foundations for future collaboration and dialogue.

The Future of Human Reproduction Team









Monday 03 June

12:00-13:00: Lunch and Registration

13:00-13:30: Session 1 - Introduction and Background

Speakers:

Professor Sara Fovargue, Professor of Law, University of Sheffield

Dr Laura O'Donovan, Research Associate in Law, Lancaster University

Professor Stephen Wilkinson, Distinguished Professor of Bioethics, Lancaster University Dr Nicola Williams, Wellcome Lecturer in the Ethics of Human Reproduction, Lancaster

University

13:30-14:40: Session 2A - Country Perspectives

Chair: Professor Stephen Wilkinson

Speakers:

13:35-13:45: Dr Johanna Ahola-Launonen, Aalto University, Finland

13:45-13:55: Professor Jean-François Guérin and Dr Hélène Letur, Biomedicine Agency (Agence de la Biomédecine), France

13:55-14:05: Dr Nora Schultz, German Ethics Council (Deutscher Ethikrat)

14:05-14:15: Dr Theodoros Trokanas, Hellenic Republic National Commission for Bioethics and

Technoethics (Εθνική Επιτροπή Βιοηθικής και Τεχνοηθικής), Greece

14:15-14:25: Dr Shona Kalkman, Health Council of the Netherlands (Gezondheidsraad)

14:25-14:40: Q&A

14:40-15:00: Refreshments

15:00-16:10: Session 2B - Country Perspectives

Chair: Professor Sara Fovargue

Speakers:

15:05-15:15: Dr Stine Hufthammer Indrelid, Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board (Bioteknologirådet)

15:15-15:25: Lotta Eriksson, The Swedish National Council on Medical Ethics (Statens Medicinsk-etiska Råd)

15:25-15:35: Professor Frances Flinter, Nuffield Council on Bioethics, United Kingdom

15:35-15:45: Peter Thompson, Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority, United Kingdom

15:45-15:55: Professor Margarida Silvestre, National Ethics Council for Life Sciences (Conselho

Nacional de Ética para as Ciências da Vida), Portugal

15:55-16:10: Q&A

16:10-16:30: Refreshments

16:30-18:20: Session 3 - Science and Bioethics

Chair: Sarah Norcross, Director, Progress Educational Trust

Speakers (online):

16:35-16:55: Professor Amander Clark, Professor, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), *In Vitro Gametogenesis: Challenges and Opportunities*

16:55-17:15: Professor Shoukhrat Mitalipov, Director of the Center for Embryonic Cell and Gene Therapy, Oregon Health & Science University, *Alternative IVG by Nuclear Transfer: Advantages and Limitations*

17:15-17:35: Matt Krisiloff, CEO, Conception Biosciences Inc., How can we start to think about safety requirements?

17:35-17:55: Professor Anne Le Goff, Associate Professor of Bioethics and Science and

Technology Studies, SupBiotech Institute, The Future of In Vitro Gametogenesis: Insights from Potential Beneficiaries

17:55-18:20: Q&A

18:20-19:00: Break

19:00: Dinner at Venue



Tuesday 04 June

09:15-09:30: Refreshments

09:30-10:30: Session 4 - Science

Chair: Professor Frances Flinter

Speakers:

09:35-09:55: Professor Mitinori Saitou, Professor, Kyoto University, *Mammalian In Vitro Gametogenesis: Progress and Future Challenges* (online)

09:55-10:15: Professor Susana Chuva de Sousa Lopes, Professor of Developmental Biology, Leiden University Medical Center, *HipGametes: Making hiPSC-Gametes to Produce Non-viable Embryos* **10:15-10:30:** O&A

10:30-10:50: Refreshments

10:50-12:30: Session 5 - Law, Regulation and Ethics 1

Chair: Dr Laura O'Donovan

Speakers:

10:55-11:15: Professor Emily Jackson (OBE), Professor of Law, London School of Economics, Regulating In Vitro Gametogenesis: Future Challenges

11:15-11:35: Professor Aisling McMahon, Professor of Law, Maynooth University, Patents and IVG Technologies within Europe: Definitional Tests, Institutional Inertia and Bioethics Gaps

11:35-11:55: Professor Susan Golombok, Professor Emerita of Family Research, University of Cambridge, *The Next Generation: What might we learn about children conceived using in vitro-derived gametes from children born by assisted reproduction?*

Respondent:

11:55-12:05: James Lawford Davies, Partner, LDMH Partners

12:05:12:30: Q&A

12:30-13:30: Lunch

13:30-15:20: Session 6 - Law, Regulation and Ethics 2

Chair: Dr Nicola Williams

Speakers.

13:35-13:55: Professor Rosamund Scott, Professor of Medical Law and Ethics and Director of the Centre of Medical Law and Ethics, King's College London, New Reproductive Technologies and Genetic Relatedness – Ethics, Policy and Law

13:55-14:15: Professor Seppe Segers, Professor of Ethics and Moral Science, Ghent University, Ethical Reflections on IVG and the Desire to have Genetic Offspring

14:15-14:35: Professor Anna Smajdor, Professor of Practical Philosophy, University of Oslo, *IVGs and the Deconstruction of Reproduction*

14:35-14:55: Professor Guido Pennings, Emeritus Professor of Ethics and Bioethics, Ghent University, The Welfare of the Child After IVG

14:55-15:20: Q&A

15:20-15:40: Refreshments

15:40-17:00: Session 7 - Key Issues and Next Steps

Chair: Professor Stephen Wilkinson

17:00: Networking and Drinks Reception

19:00: Dinner at Local Restaurant



Our Team in Leiden



Professor Stephen Wilkinson, Distinguished Professor of Bioethics, Lancaster University

Stephen Wilkinson is Distinguished Professor of Bioethics at Lancaster University and Principal Investigator on The Future of Human Reproduction programme. Much of his work is about reproductive ethics and the regulation of reproductive technologies, especially the ethics of selective reproduction (practices that involve choosing between different possible future people). A book on this topic (Choosing Tomorrow's Children, Oxford University Press) was published in 2010, supported by grants from the AHRC and Wellcome. Since then, particular interests have included ethical issues raised by uterus transplantation, non-invasive pre-natal testing, mitochondrial replacement, new sources of eggs and sperm, genome editing, surrogacy, and public funding for infertility treatment. Another abiding interest is the commercial exploitation of the human body, which was the subject of his first book, Bodies for Sale (Routledge, 2003).

In April 2024, Professor Wilkinson was appointed as a Council member on the Nuffield Council on Bioethics. He is also a member of the Wellcome Trust Career Development Award Interview Panel, the AHRC Peer Review College, the UKRI Talent Peer Review College, and the editorial boards of Bioethics and Clinical Ethics.



Professor Sara Fovargue, Professor of Law, University of Sheffield

Sara Fovargue is a Professor of Law at the University of Sheffield, having been Professor of Law at Lancaster University. She is a Co-Investigator on The Future of Human Reproduction programme. She has taught and researched issues relating to health law and ethics, and family law (particularly relating to children) throughout her career. She is particularly interested in matters relating to decision making for the 'vulnerable'; risk and regulation; clinical research involving human and non-human animals; developing and emerging biotechnologies (such as xenotransplantation); reproduction and reproductive technologies; organ donation and transplantation; and conscientious objection. With regards to family law, her interests relate to parents, parenthood and reproductive technologies; children and health; and children and childhood. Her research has been funded by Wellcome, the British Academy/Leverhulme Trust, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the AHRC. She is a member of the ESRC Peer Review College, joint Editor-in-Chief of the Medical Law Review, and a Fellow of the RSA.



Our Team in Leiden



Dr Nicola Williams, Wellcome Lecturer in The Ethics of Human Reproduction, Lancaster University

Nicola Williams is Wellcome Lecturer in The Ethics of Human Reproduction in the Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion at Lancaster University. She is a Co-Investigator on The Future of Human Reproduction programme. Her research background is in the fields of Philosophy and Politics and her primary research interests concern questions of reproductive ethics, transplantation ethics, personal identity and intergenerational justice. Her most recent research has been funded by both Wellcome and the Leverhulme Trust. Between 2015 and 2019, she was a researcher on a Wellcome Senior Investigator award exploring various practices of reproductive donation from the perspectives of both ethics and law. Between 2019 and 2022 she held a Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship focussing on the philosophical and policy questions raised by novel forms of organ and tissue transplantation such as hand, face and uterus transplantation and since April 2022 she has been working on the Wellcome-funded Research Development Award: The Future of Human Reproduction.

She has (co)-authored numerous publications exploring different topics in reproductive and transplantation ethics, ranging from the practical (e.g. questions of funding for reproductive tissue transplants, and policy exclusions for novel forms of tissue transplantation under opt-out organ donation policy) to the conceptual (e.g. work focussed on how we might understand worries regarding harm to future persons, and the moral principles which underlie the practice of living organ donation). She is also currently co-editing a book which brings together international legal and ethical perspectives on uterine transplantation. Nicola is the incoming co-ordinator of the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology Ethics and Law special interest group and she has a keen interest in public engagement and research dissemination activities related to her research.



Dr Andrew Darby, Research Associate in Speculative Design, Lancaster University

Andrew Darby is a Research Associate in Speculative Design on The Future of Human Reproduction project. He is interested in the ways in which alternative design practices like Speculative Design can be used to understand and debate the paths by which disruptive technologies may develop. His PhD thesis explored participatory approaches to design fiction and offered a theoretical framework and practical guidance to support design facilitators in their work with participant groups. As well as developing design fiction research in the UK, Andrew has worked on several international research projects in health and speculative design contexts in Canada, Malaysia and Ghana.



Our Team in Leiden



Dr Laura O'Donovan, Research Associate in Law, Lancaster University

Laura O'Donovan is an academic lawyer who researches issues healthcare law and bioethics. She is currently a Research Associate on the Wellcome funded project, The Future of Human Reproduction. She has a particular interest in the following areas: (i) reproduction and the body (novel assisted reproductive technologies, pregnancy, and regulation of the family); (ii) organ donation (systems of opt-out donation and organ and tissue exclusions); and (iii) health inequalities with a particular focus on the gender health gap.

Her PhD explored the legal and ethical challenges posed by uterus transplantation focusing on questions of risk in experimental medical procedures, reproductive autonomy, child welfare, and access to treatment. While undertaking her doctoral research, Dr O'Donovan also completed a placement at the Cabinet Office (CO) where she worked as a Policy Advisor in the Open Innovation Team. During this time, she worked on projects for BEIS (as it then was), MoJ and CO seeking to draw on academic research and expertise to generate analysis and ideas for policy. In addition to her published academic research, Dr O'Donovan also has experience collaborating with external stakeholders to produce outputs. She is currently working with clinicians to develop public materials on the ethics of uterus transplantation. She has also submitted evidence to a number of consultations held by the UK, Scottish and Northern Irish governments on optout organ donation.



Dr Zoe Bolton, Partnership and Communications Manager, Lancaster University

Zoe Bolton is The Future of Human Reproduction Partnership and Communications Manager. She has worked at Lancaster University in research management roles since 2018 with a focus on interdisciplinary research. Previously, she worked in marketing and public relations, and as a journalist for the national press. She is interested in effective research and science communication, and in how to foster responsible and informed debate about controversial areas of science, particularly in the context of future reproductive technologies. An 'Explainer' that she wrote about human stem cell based embryo models was recently cited in a UK Government policy briefing. She has a PhD and MA in English Literature from Lancaster University, and a PGDip in Journalism from the London College of Printing.



Amber Anderson, Live Illustrator, Amber Anderson Creative

Amber Anderson is a live illustrator providing a service of attending events, conferences and workshops and creating a hand-drawn visual summary of presentations or discussions in real time.





Dr Johanna Ahola-Launonen, Postdoctoral Researcher, Aalto University

Johanna Ahola-Launonen holds a PhD in Practical Philosophy from the University of Helsinki, awarded in 2018. Subsequently, her scholarly pursuits have centered on postdoctoral research concerning the normativity of technological expectations. Presently, she is engaged in a research project spanning from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026, which scrutinizes technological optimism and the ethical management of technological expectations. Her broader research interests, informed by prior projects and teaching engagements, include the philosophy of health, justice studies, pharmaceutical ethics, and bioethics in general. Additionally, she possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in Genetics from the University of Helsinki. Since 2020, Johanna has served as an ethical expert for the National Committee on Medical Research Ethics (Tukija) in Finland. The committee provides ethical evaluations of clinical trials conducted in Finland.



Dr Frank Beck Lassen, Head of Section, Danish National Council on Ethics

Frank Beck Lassen holds a PhD in the history of ideas and has worked for a number of years as a teacher in Philosophy. He now works as a consultant for the Danish National Council on Ethics. He plans, reads, writes and facilitates discussion for council members.



Professor Susana Chuva de Sousa Lopes, Professor of Developmental Biology, Leiden University Medical Center

Susana Chuva de Sousa Lopes is Professor of Developmental Biology in the Department of Anatomy and Embryology at the Leiden University Medical Center. She is also a visiting professor at Ghent University Hospital, Belgium. She is immediate past coordinator of the special interest group "Stem Cells" in the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE). She was awarded a VENI (2006) and a VICI (2019) research grant from NWO/ZonMW and an ERC consolidator (2016) research grant from the EC. She coordinates the ZonMW PSIDER consortium HipGametes and is PI in the international Novo Nordisk Foundation Center for Stem Cell Medicine reNEW. She has also received an Aspasia premium twice and the Snoo–van 't Hoogerhuijs Foundation prize twice.





Professor Amander Clark, Professor, University of California, Los Angeles

Amander Clark PhD is the Founding Director of the UCLA Center for Reproductive Science, Health and Education and is a Professor of Molecular Cell and Developmental Biology at UCLA. Amander is an award-winning scientist and internationally recognized expert on topics in stem cell biology and reproductive science research. Results from the Clark Lab provide the basis for understanding ovarian development in utero, as well as ovarian disease and dysfunction. Amander has authored more than 100 scientific articles in her career, and her work has earned more than 17,000 citations. Amander is regularly invited to appear as a subject matter expert for the New York Times, the Economist, the New Yorker and Public Radio. In 2023, Amander began her elected role as President of the International Society for Stem Cell Research, a global non-profit that promotes excellence in stem cell science and applications to human health.

Professor Martine de Vries, Professor of Normative Aspects of Medicine, Leiden University Medical Center

Martine de Vries is full professor and head of the department of Medical Ethics and Health Law at the Leiden University Medical Center, as well as paediatrician at the same institution. Her research focuses on three pillars: 1) the notion of the Learning Healthcare System (LHS), 2) vulnerable populations in healthcare, and 3) empirical ethics methodology. Her LHS-research focuses on consent issues in: biobanks, when (re)using biological materials (especially stem cells and immortal cell lines) and Electronic Health Record data, and when using big data, data linkage and Artificial Intelligence as the data-driven-healthcare base of an LHS. Martine uses Guidance Ethics - a value-sensitive design method to support responsible (stem cell based) therapy innovation and practice. She is member of the Committee on Ethics and Law Health of the Health Council of the Netherlands (Gezondheidsraad), member of the Central Committee on Research involving Human Subjects (CCMO) and chair of the Netherlands Center for Ethics and Health (CEG).



Lotta Eriksson, Secretary General, The Swedish National Council on Medical Ethics

Lotta Eriksson has been the Secretary General of the Swedish National Council on Medical Ethics since 2009. Her expertise centres around policy development within the bioethical field, a domain she has navigated since 2002 through her roles in both the Council and the governmental offices. Lotta has drafted numerous reports and opinions, addressing a wide array of bioethical issues. Prior to her current role, Lotta held positions as a Research Officer at the Council and as a Special Advisor at the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. Her academic background is comprehensive, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Philosophy, and Sociology from Stockholm University, supplemented by studies in Journalism and Communication. Her background also includes significant experience in communication and internet-related services.





Professor Frances Flinter, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Genetics and Member, Nuffield Council on Bioethics

Frances Flinter is Emeritus Professor of Clinical Genetics at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in London, with a special interest in Pre-implantation Genetic Testing (PGT) and Mitochondrial Replacement Therapies. She is a member of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics (where she leads the priority area work on Reproduction, Parenthood and Families), and a member of the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority – the UK's fertility regulator - where she sits on the PGT licensing committee and the Scientific and Clinical Advances Advisory Committee (SCAAC). On June 23rd 2024 she will play with the European Doctors' Orchestra in a concert in Basel, Switzerland. https://www.europeandoctorsorchestra.com.



Professor Susan Golombok, Professor Emerita of Family Research, University of Cambridge

Susan Golombok is Professor Emerita of Family Research and former Director of the Centre for Family Research at the University of Cambridge, UK. She has pioneered research on lesbian mother families, gay father families, families with transgender parents, families formed by single parents by choice, and families created by assisted reproductive technologies including in vitro fertilisation (IVF), donor insemination, egg donation and surrogacy. Her research has challenged commonly held assumptions about these families as well as widely held theories of child development and has contributed to policy and legislation on the family both nationally and internationally. Her most recent book is, We Are Family: What Really Matters for Parents and Children.



Professor Jean-François Guérin, President of the "Conseil d'orientation", Agence de la Biomédecine

Jean-François Guérin MD PhD is the President of the "Conseil d'orientation" of Agence de la Biomédecine (2018-2024). He is the past president of the ethical commission of CECOS (French sperm banks) and of the Ethical Committee of "Hospices civils de Lyon". He is a past member of the Executive Committee of ESHRE (2007-2011).





Dr Stine Hufthammer Indrelid, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board

Stine Hufthammer Indrelid is a Senior Advisor with the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board where she works to support the Council's work, monitor developments in areas of interest to the Council, and provide information to the public to support public debate. Some of her focus areas are stem cells used for clinical and research applications, future reproduction, GMO, genome editing, cloning and neurotechnology. Before joining the NBAB, Stine worked as a researcher in cellular immunology at the Oral Health Centre of Expertise in Western Norway, and at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. She holds a PhD in Cell Biology, an MSc in Genetics, and a BSc in Biotechnology.



Professor Emily Jackson (OBE), Professor of Law, London School of Economics

Emily Jackson is a Professor of Law at LSE. Her research interests are in the field of medical law, with particular emphasis on the regulation of assisted conception, assisted dying and the pharmaceutical industry. She has served as a member of the British Medical Association Medical Ethics Committee (2005-2022), has been a Member and Deputy Chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (2003-2012) and a Judicial Appointments Commissioner (2014-2017). She is a Fellow of the British Academy and has recently been awarded a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (2024-2027).



Dr Shona Kalkman, Scientific Staff Member, Health Council of the Netherlands (Gezondheidsraad)

As a member of scientific staff at the Health Council of the Netherlands (The Hague, NL), Shona Kalkman writes scientific advisory reports for the Dutch government and parliament about healthcare policy and legislation that raises substantial moral questions. The Council itself has a longstanding history of providing policy advice on new reproductive technologies, starting with the emergence of IVF in the 1980s. She has a background in medicine and bioethics and made the transition from academia (University Medical Center Utrecht) to scientific policy advice about 4 years ago. Shona's recent work at the Council includes the advice to extend the 14-day rule for human embryo research.





Matt Krisiloff, CEO, Conception Biosciences Inc.

Matt Krisiloff is CEO of Conception Biosciences, a company working on turning induced pluripotent stem cells into eggs for fertility purposes. Conception has a team of 40 full-time scientists devoted to research on IVG. Previously he was on the founding team of OpenAI, creator of ChatGPT.



James Lawford Davies, Partner, LDMH Partners

James Lawford Davies is a solicitor and partner at LDMH Partners, a law firm with offices in the UK, Germany and Canada. James specialises in life sciences regulation and litigation. He has a particular interest in human tissue and cell based therapies, and related research. He advises a large number of clinics, hospitals, universities and research centres licensed by the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority (HFEA). James has been involved in most of the leading cases relating to IVF, embryo research, genetics and stem cell research. He is an experienced litigator and much of his work concerns the judicial review of regulatory bodies, and cases arising as a result of regulatory action.



Professor Anne Le Goff, Associate Professor of Bioethics and Science and Technology Studies, SupBiotech Institute

Anne Le Goff is Associate Professor of Bioethics and Science and Technology Studies at the SupBiotech Institute in Paris (from June 2024). Her primary research and teaching interests are in biotechnologies, biology, and reproduction. Using a range of philosophical and qualitative methods, and in collaboration with life scientists, she explores the ethical and social aspects of emerging biotechnologies. Her current research focuses on the implications of in vitro gametogenesis for reproductive and intergenerational health and equity. Prior to her current position, Anne was a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer at the University of California Los Angeles for 9 years. She is the author of the French book *L'animal humain*, on concepts of nature and biology applied to humans, and of numerous articles in English and French.



Dr Hélène Letur, Doctor in ART and Fertility Preservation, Agence de la Biomédicine

Hélène Letur is a Doctor of Medicine specializing in Gynaecology, Endocrinology, Assisted Reproductive Techniques and Fertility Preservation, Ultrasound techniques, Statistics in Epidemiology, Health Economics. She has expertise in IVF with gamete donation especially egg donation and is President of the French Study Group for Oocyte Donation (GEDO), and President of the Ethics Committee of this society. Hélène currently practices at Foch Hospital, Suresnes, France, and Policlinic Pau Pyrenees, Pau France, She is a member of the following bodies: Expert doctor at the Biomedicine Agency, France; Member of the "Conseil d'Orientation" (Advisory Council) of the Biomedicine Agency, France; European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology; American Society for Reproductive Medicine; French Research Group and Studies for Ovarian and Testicular Preservation (GRECOT); and Ministerial plan monitoring committee on Procreation Embryology and Genetics (PeGH).



Professor Aisling McMahon, Professor of Law, Maynooth University

Aisling McMahon is a Professor of Law, School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University who specialises in health law and intellectual property law. She is the Principal Investigator of the ERC funded PatentsInHumans project, a 5-year interdisciplinary project which examines the bioethical implications posed by patent grant and use over technologies related to the human body. Aisling previously held academic positions in Newcastle University and Durham University. She holds a PhD from the University of Edinburgh which examined the morality provisions in European patent law for biotechnology inventions. In 2024, she was appointed as a member of the Irish National Research Ethics Committee for Clinical Trials in Ireland. She has been a visiting fellow at the University of Oxford (Caroline Miles Visiting Scholar), the Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics, the Hastings Center New York.



Professor Shoukhrat Mitalipov, Director of the Center for Embryonic Cell and Gene Therapy, Oregon Health & Science University

Shoukhrat Mitalipov, PhD, is the Director and Professor of the Center for Embryonic Cell and Gene Therapy at Oregon Health & Science University. His research is focused on investigating and developing novel cell and gene therapy approaches in reproductive medicine. His laboratory pioneered the concept of mitochondrial/cytoplasmic replacement therapy, and they are exploring applications of direct reprogramming somatic cells to haploid oocytes as a future infertility therapy to restore reproductive potential of patients. He is also investigating novel gene editing strategies that would allow repairing gene defects in gametes or early preimplantation embryos in order to prevent transmission of heritable genetic disorders.



Professor Christine Mummery, Professor of Developmental Biology, Leiden University Medical Center

Christine Mummery is Professor of Developmental Biology at Leiden University Medical Center. Following a PhD in Biophysics, she moved to the Hubrecht Institute to study ion channels and later, cardiovascular diseases using pluripotent stem cells from patients, developing organ-on-chip models. This has centred on safety pharmacology to predict toxic effects of drugs on the human heart and capturing cardiac and vascular disease phenotypes including identifying individual vulnerability and drug sensitivity. She was president of the International Society for Stem Cell Research (2020-2021) and co-founded the European Organ-on-Chip Society. She is also a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Science. In 2021, she was awarded the Lefoulon Delalande Prize jointly with Gordon Keller.



Sarah Norcross, Director, Progress Educational Trust

Sarah Norcross is Director of the Progress Educational Trust (PET) and Commissioning Editor of its flagship publication BioNews. Together with Sandy Starr, she organises PET's public events. Sarah often represents PET in the media nationally and internationally. Sarah is also a Trustee at the British Fertility Society (BFS), Chair of the BFS Special Interest Group on Law, Policy and Ethics, and an External Adviser to the University of Cambridge's Reproduction Strategic Research Initiative. Sarah serves on the National Infertility Group convened by the Scottish Government, and on the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority's Patient Organisation Stakeholder Group. She also chaired a group of clinicians, scientists, patient support groups and medical research charities which campaigned and advised on the content of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 as it passed through the UK Parliament. She served on the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology's Working Group on Add-Ons.



Professor Guido Pennings, Emeritus Professor of Ethics and Bioethics, Ghent University

Guido Pennings is Emeritus Professor of Ethics and Bioethics at Ghent University (Belgium) and the director of the Bioethics Institute Ghent (BIG).

He mainly publishes on ethical problems associated with medically assisted reproduction and genetics.





Professor Mitinori Saitou, Professor, Kyoto University

Mitinori Saitou received his M.D. and Ph.D. (under Prof. Shoichiro Tsukita) from the Kyoto University, and performed his postdoctoral work at the Wellcome Trust/Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute (with Prof. Azim Surani). He was appointed team leader at the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology in 2003. He was appointed Professor at the Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine in 2009, and Director of the JST ERATO program in 2011. He was appointed Professor at the Kyoto University Institute for Advanced Study (KUIAS) and Director of Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Biology (ASHBi) in 2018. He was appointed program officer of the JST FOREST program in 2023. His work focuses on the mechanism and reconstitution in vitro of germ cell development in mice, non-human primates including great apes, and humans.



Dr Nora Schultz, Research Officer, German Ethics Council

Nora Schulz is a Research Officer with the German Ethics Council with degrees in Biological Sciences and Journalism and a Ph.D. in Developmental Biology. At the German Ethics Council, she has covered topics ranging from genetic diagnosis, stem cell research and human-animal mixtures to biosecurity, brain death, big data and AI. She coordinated the German Ethics Council's three-year work program on genome editing in human reproduction, which culminated in the report 'Intervening in the Human Germline' published in May 2019.

Professor Rosamund Scott, Professor of Medical Law and Ethics and Director, Centre of Medical Law and Ethics, King's College London

Rosamund Scott is Professor of Medical Law and Ethics, and Director, Centre of Medical Law and Ethics, King's College London (KCL). Her studies and professional training, supported by various scholarships and awards, include: Philosophy, ANU (awarded the Quentin Gibson Prize); Law, Corpus Christi College, Oxford; PhD, KCL; and Barrister. Her books, articles and chapters are on a wide range of ethical, policy and legal issues in reproduction, with research supported by the Wellcome Trust (including as a Senior Investigator with Professor Stephen Wilkinson) and the AHRC. A recent article on new reproductive technologies and genetic relatedness appeared in the Modern Law Review, another on heritable human genome editing in the Medical Law Review, and a chapter on this topic is forthcoming. Past and present roles include: Chair, UK Stem Cell Bank Steering Committee; Member: working group on stem cell-based embryo models; RCOG Ethics Committee; and NCOB Working Party on donor conception and information disclosure.





Professor Seppe Segers, Professor of Ethics and Moral Science, Ghent University

Seppe Segers teaches moral science and theoretical and practical ethics at the Department of Philosophy and Moral Science of Ghent University. His main research domains are theoretical and substantive ethics, with a focus on normative and meta-ethics, and, respectively, bioethics, medical ethics and engineering ethics. He is a member of the Bioethics Institute Ghent and the Senior Deputy-elect of ESHRE's special interest group Ethics and Law.



Professor Margarida Silvestre, Member, National Ethics Council for Life Sciences

Margarida Silvestre MD, is a specialist in Gynaecology-Obstetrics, a subspecialist in Reproductive Medicine by the Portuguese Medical Association (PMA) and Graduated Hospital Assistant in Gynaecology-Obstetrics. She works at CLINIMER – Clínica de Medicina da Reprodução, Coimbra, Portugal, as a clinician. She has a PhD in Bioethics from the Portuguese Catholic University, and is a Professor of Medical Ethics at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Coimbra (FMUC), Portugal. She is coordinator of a post-graduate course and regent of 5 curricular units in the area of Ethics in Health. She is a member of the National Ethics Council for Life Sciences - Portugal, President of the National Ethics and Medical Deontology Council of the PMA, President of the College of Reproductive Medicine Subspecialty of the PMA, President of the Ethics Committee of the FMUC, Senior Deputy of the SIG Ethics and Law Steering Committee of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology and Vice-President of the Portuguese Society of Reproductive Medicine, among other positions.

Professor Anna Smajdor, Professor of Practical Philosophy, University of Oslo

Anna Smajdor is Professor of Practical Philosophy at the University of Oslo. Her work focuses on ethical questions related to medicine, innovation and the life-sciences. Her PhD thesis was an analysis of the ethical and legal implications of artificial gametes. She has published widely on this topic, and on many related issues in reproductive ethics. She also has broader interests in a variety of bioethical topics, including morality and nature, and human relationships with animals and plants. Recently she has become interested specifically in the way that these issues intersect with questions raised by new developments in artificial intelligence.





Peter Thompson, Chief Executive, Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority

Peter Thompson has been the Chief Executive of the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority, the statutory UK regulator of fertility services and research involving human embryos, since 2012. The HFEA was the first regulator of its kind in the world and has been at the forefront of regulatory developments ever since, including in 2015 the first in world licensing of mitochondrial donation for clinical treatment. Peter previously worked as a senior civil servant for a number of Government departments, including the Ministry of Justice and the Cabinet Office. Among a variety of roles, Peter was responsible for the Government's policy on the legal recognition of transsexual people, EU justice policy and the Prime Minister's programme of constitutional renewal. Peter has been an external member of the Council of Queen Mary University of London since 2017 and has Chaired its Audit and Risk Committee since 2022.



Dr Theodoros Trokanas, Scientific Officer, Hellenic Republic National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics

Theodoros Trokanas was born in Thessaloniki. He holds a Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Law of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2000), a Master's degree in a private law specialty from the University of Dijon (2003) and a Phd in Civil Law (Family Law) from the Faculty of Law of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2011). He is currently Scientific Officer at the Hellenic Republic National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics. He has authored 3 books "Human reproduction, Individual autonomy and its limits" (2011), "The Cypriot Law on Medically Assisted Reproduction" (2016) and "Error in motive in Civil Code" (2022) as well as numerous articles in family law, law of succession and medical law. He has been a practising lawyer since 2002, a member of the Bar Association of Thessaloniki, and since 2018 he has delivered professional training seminars on GDPR/DPO. He has an excellent command of English, French and a good command of German and Spanish.





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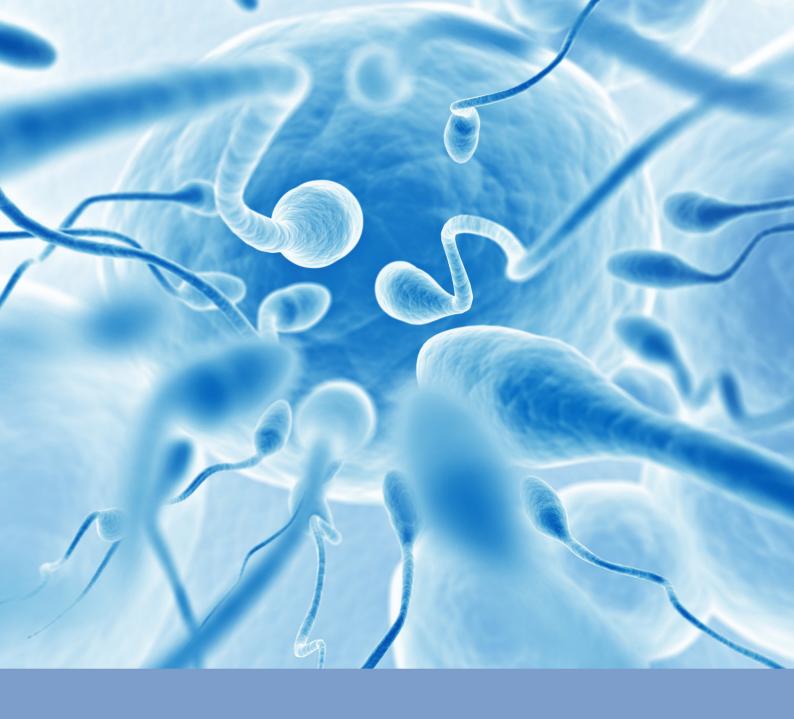
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