Bioethics in the context of law, morals and culture

September 14/15, 2005, Berlin

Content of the conference:
The conference aims at bringing together scientists from the natural sciences, medicine, ethics, law, social sciences and the humanities who are working on the basic questions in bioethics within their individual and various research projects. The conference is to provide a forum for the discussion of the current state of the bioethical debate in a critical exchange of high-ranking expert representatives from Germany and from abroad. A special focus will be placed on the question of bioethical judgment formation with respect to the multifaceted and various law cultures, to moral convictions and cultures as well as to its relationship to public opinion formation.

Conference languages are German and English.

Programme

Wednesday, 14 September 2005

10.00 am  Opening (Permanent State Secretary Wolf-Michael Catenhusen)
10.15 am  Welcome and introduction to the conference theme by the chairman of the organising committee (Ludger Honnefelder)
10.30 am  Scientific innovation and benefits for society in the life sciences: challenges and areas of conflict (Jens Reich)
11.15 am  **Session 1: Bioethics in the context of legal cultures**  
(Chair: Hans-Peter Schreiber/Kristiane Weber-Hassemer)

11.20 am The relationship between ethics and law: recourse to human dignity (Matthias Lutz-Bachmann)
11.40 am Law-making in the light of the diversity of legal norms: establishing a consensus in Europe (Göran Hermerén)
12.00 pm Code of ethics and law governing professions as normative bodies in the life sciences (Elmar Doppelfeld)
12.20 pm Round table with speakers and moderators and discussion with participants

1.00 – 2.00 pm  **Lunch**

2.00 pm  **Session 2: Bioethics in the context of diverse moral convictions**  
(Chair: Hans-Jörg Jacobsen/Volker Gerhardt)

2.05 pm Unity of ethics facing the diversity of morals (Margit Sutrop)
2.25 pm Freedom of research and protection of life: norm conflicts in the light of different moral convictions (Matthias Herdegen)
2.45 pm Handling moral dissent (Matthias Kaiser)
3.05 to 5.45 pm Round table

3.45 to 4.15 pm:  **Coffee break**

4.15 pm  **Session 3: Bioethics and culture**  
(Chair: Ludger Honnefelder/Klaus Tanner)

4.20 pm Technical progress, normative awareness and cultural change (Sigrid Weigel)
4.40 pm The meaning of religious approaches within the bioethical discourse (Damien Keown)
5.00 pm Transcultural bioethics: corporate ethics as a vehicle for global bioethics (Hans-Peter Schreiber)
5.20 pm Transcultural bioethics: the UNESCO approach (Henk ten Have)
5.40 pm Round table

6.10 to 6.30 pm:  **Coffee break**

6.30 pm Panel with the moderators of the 3 sessions on the overall theme
7.00 pm Development of bioethics and ELSI-grants in the USA (Michael Yesley)

8.00 pm  **Reception and dinner**
Thursday, 15 September 2005

9.00 am    Bioethics from the standpoint of a research scientist
            (Otmar D. Wiestler)

9.30 am    Bioethics from the standpoint of the humanities
            (Ludger Honnefelder)

10.00 am   Coffee break

10.30 am   Panel discussion: “What kind of bioethics do we need?”
            Critical discussion with reference to the previous thought-provoking
            papers, led by a panel of natural scientists, humanities scientists,
            politicians.
            Moderator: Volker Gerhardt
            Participants: Wolf-Michael Catenhusen
                          Ludger Honnefelder
                          Jens Reich
                          Margit Sutrop
                          Henk ten Have
                          Wolfgang van den Daele
                          Kristiane Weber-Hassemer
                          Michael Yesley

12.30 am   End of Conference
List of Speakers and Moderators:

Permanent State Secretary Wolf-Michael Catenhusen (German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Elmar Doppelfeld (Permanent Working Group of Research Ethics Committees, Cologne; Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI), Council of Europe)

Prof. Dr. Volker Gerhardt (Institute of Philosophy, Humboldt University Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Matthias Herdegen (Institute for International Law, University of Bonn)

Prof. Göran Hermerén (Department of Medical Ethics, Lund University)

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ludger Honnfelder (German Reference Centre for Ethics in the Life Sciences, Bonn)

Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Jacobsen (LG Molekulargentik, University of Hanover)

Prof. Dr. Matthias Kaiser (The National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology, Oslo)

Prof. Damien Keown (History Department, Goldsmiths College, University of London)

Prof. Dr. Dr. Matthias Lutz-Bachmann (Department of Philosophy, University of Frankfurt am Main)

Prof. Dr. Jens Reich (Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC), Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Schreiber (Novartis Ethics Advisory Board, Basel; Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich)

Prof. Dr. Margit Sutrop (Centre for Ethics, Department of Philosophy, University of Tartu)

Prof. Dr. Klaus Tanner (Interdisciplinary Centre of Medicine, Ethic and Law, University of Halle-Wittenberg)

Prof. Dr. Henk ten Have (Division of Ethics of Science and Technology, UNESCO, Paris)

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang van den Daele (Social Science Research Center, Berlin)

Kristiane Weber-Hassemer (Chair of German National Ethics Council, Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Sigrid Weigel (Zentrum für Literaturforschung [Centre for Literary Research], Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Otmar D. Wiestler (German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg)

Dr. Michael Yesley (former manager of the Department of Energy (DOE) component of the ELSI grants program)
After the Expert Conference:

Thursday, 15 September 2005, 2.30 pm
until
Friday, 16 September 2005, 4.00 pm

at the conference location:

**Status-Seminar**

of the Projects within the Funding Priority "Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects (ELSA) of Modern Life Sciences"

of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

- 3-year Research Projects
- Junior Research Groups
- Summer Schools
- Discursive Projects
- Future European perspectives of ELSA-research (ERA-NET initiatives, EU-funding)

**GUESTS ARE WELCOME!**
Scientific Concept:
German Reference Centre for Ethics in the Life Sciences (DRZE), Bonn

Organisational Committee:
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Ludger Honnefelder, Bonn (Chair)
Prof. Dr. Volker Gerhardt, Berlin
Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Jacobsen, Hannover
Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Schreiber, Basel
Prof. Dr. Klaus Tanner, Halle-Wittenberg

Venue:
Maritim proArte Hotel
http://www.tagungshotel.com/hotel_1054814102.htm
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Registration:  http://www.drze.de/events/bioethics_registration/