

PUBLIC FORUM

Is Transcending Natural Boundaries Ethical?

Date: 31 July 2010 (Saturday)

Time: 1.30 – 3.45 pm
(Registration begins at 1.00 pm)

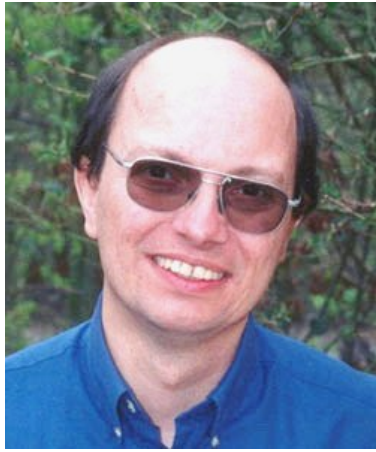
Reservation: **Free admission**, but reservation required.

Please reserve your seats with Mr Wilson Wu at 6773 6475 or wilson@bioethics-singapore.org with your name, institution / organisation and contact details by 26 July 2010 (Monday)

Venue: Maxwell Auditorium, Science Centre Singapore
15 Science Centre Road
Singapore 609081

Organisers: Bioethics Advisory Committee
Centre for Biomedical Ethics, National University of Singapore
Science Centre Singapore

Time	Programme
1.00 – 1.30 pm	Registration
1.30 – 2.00 pm	Stem Cells from Bench to Bedside <i>Professor Søren Holm, Professor of Bioethics, University of Manchester, UK</i>
2.00 – 2.15 pm	Q&A
2.15 – 2.45 pm	Nespresso, Red Bull, Chardonnay, Viagra, Modafinil, Samaritanine, Orgasmatrons, Androcur, and the Sort of World We Will End Up With – Some Ethical Arguments Regarding Enhancement <i>Professor Inez de Beaufort, Professor of Health Care Ethics, Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands</i>
2.45 – 3.00 pm	Q&A
3.00 – 3.45 pm	Refreshments and Meet the Speakers



Prof Søren Holm

Professor of Bioethics, Centre for Social Ethics and Policy and the Institute of Science, Ethics and Innovation, University of Manchester, UK

Stem Cells from Bench to Bedside

Abstract

The first stem cell therapies based on stem cell lines are slowly moving from the laboratory bench to the hospital bedside. This talk will analyse the ethical issues that the first trials involving stem cell therapies will raise. It will argue that the traditional issues concerning the moral status of the embryo and possible complicity in embryo destruction are not the most important issues to consider. Much more important to discuss are issues surrounding off-label use and the use outside of rigorously controlled research settings.

About the Speaker

Søren Holm is a Danish doctor and philosopher. He is Professor of Bioethics at the Centre for Social Ethics and Policy and the Institute of Science, Ethics and Innovation, University of Manchester and Professor of Medical Ethics (part-time) at the Centre for Medical Ethics, University of Oslo.

He is also a current member of the UK Stem Cell Bank Steering Committee and the Nuffield Council on Bioethics and has previously been a member of the Danish Council of Ethics. He has written extensively about stem cells and about clinical research ethics.



Prof Inez de Beaufort

Professor of Health Care Ethics, Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Nespresso, Red Bull, Chardonnay, Viagra, Modafinil, Samaritanine, Orgasmatrons, Androcur, and the Sort of World We Will End Up With – Some Ethical Arguments Regarding Enhancement

Abstract

There is a heated debate on the ethical issues surrounding enhancement of humans. Coffee, mascara, high heels, alcohol, jogging, perfume, vitamins, yoga, are just a few of the many enhancers we use. What is enhancement, can it be distinguished from therapy? I will discuss some of the arguments in favour and the arguments against enhancement using mostly examples of different kind of enhancement from the cognitive area (e.g. concentration pills), beauty (cosmetic esthetic surgery) and the improvement of health (vaccination). Is enhancement good as it contributes to human well-being, and is there a moral obligation to do good? How about the idea that there is nothing new under the sun and that humans have been enhancing themselves since their very beginning. Cleopatra bathed in asses milk, we have liposuction yet on the other hand, is idea that enhancement is against nature, artificial, and may lead to injustice as some forms will not be available to all who want or need them. Finally many fear enhancement if it were to become an instrument in the hands of governments who want to rule citizens as herds of simple sheep (the Orwellian '1984' perspective). Enhancement has always been there, but the different technologies now available have made the ethical questions more complicated.

About the Speaker

Inez de Beaufort is Professor of Health Care Ethics and Head of the Department of Medical Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine at the Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. She has published on different subjects in medical ethics, e.g. human research, reproductive technologies, personal responsibility for health, the elderly (euthanasia and dementia) and public health issues. Together with Frans Meulenberg she writes a medical ethical soap story in the Journal of Medical Ethics. Present research themes are ethics and obesity, ethics and paediatrics, ethics and the elderly, ethics and beauty, and medical ethics in literature and films. She has been a member of many ethics committees of hospitals and of national organisations. She is a member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies, an honorary member of the Dutch Health Council, a member of a regional euthanasia review committee, and member of the Dutch National Committee for Ethics and Medical Research.