

International Conference on Ethics of Stem Cell Research and Moral Responsibility in ART

ESHRE Campus 2007

Ghent, Belgium

30 November to 1 December 2007



Joint BIG / ESHRE Conference
Bioethics Institute Ghent
and
European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology



ESHRE Campus

**International Conference on
Ethics of Stem Cell Research and
Moral Responsibility in ART**

Ghent, Belgium

30 November - 1 December 2007

Organized by

the ESHRE Special Interest Group Ethics and Law



and

the Bioethics Institute Ghent (BIG)



COURSE DESCRIPTION

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The course has two parts: the first addresses ethical aspects of human embryonic stem cell and cloning research. This fast developing and controversial technology continuously generates new ethical issues that one tries to solve by new technological inventions, which in turn raise new controversies. The second part contains presentations on the moral responsibility of all parties involved in medically assisted reproduction: the patient (for their life style and their future offspring), the physician (for the patient, the child and society), and society (by introducing legislation and providing public funding).

Course objectives

The course intends to inform about new developments in the field of human stem cell and cloning research, as well as the ethical issues they raise. It also intends to stimulate discussion on the moral responsibility of the different parties in assisted reproductive technology and to make them aware of the others' perspective and position in its application.

Target audience

On the one hand, philosophers and ethicists interested in stem cells and medically assisted reproduction. On the other hand, physicians and healthcare workers with a general interest in ethics as applied in the domain of infertility treatment.

Accreditation for physicians has been requested.

FACULTY & ORGANIZATION

Organising Committee

Katrien Devolder
Guido Pennings

Faculty

Didi Braat, head of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UMC St Radboud, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. D.braat@obgyn.umcn.nl

Yvonne Denier, Center for Economics and Ethics, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Yvonne.Denier@econ.kuleuven.be

Katrien Devolder, Bioethics Institute Ghent, Ghent University, Belgium. Katrien.devolder@ugent.be

Paul Devroey, clinical director of Centre for Reproductive Medicine AZ-VUB, Free University Brussels, Belgium. President of ESHRE. Paul.devroey@az.vub.ac.be

Guido de Wert, professor of biomedical ethics, Maastricht University, Research Institute GROW, Maastricht, The Netherlands. G.deWert@ZW.unimaas.nl

Jan Gerris, head of Division Gynecology, Centre for Reproductive Medicine, Department of Ob-Gyn, University Hospital Ghent, Belgium. Jan.gerris@ugent.be

John Harris, Sir David Alliance Professor of Bioethics, Centre for Social Ethics and Policy, University of Manchester. John.harris@manchester.ac.uk

Peter Herissone-Kelly, lecturer in philosophy, University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom. pnherissone-kelly@uclan.ac.uk

Freddy Mortier, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Ghent University. Freddy.Mortier@Ugent.be

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Julian Savulescu, Uehiro Professor of Practical Ethics, the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Director of the Program on Ethics and the New Biosciences in the 21st Century School, University of Oxford, United Kingdom. julian.savulescu@philosophy.ox.ac.uk

Françoise Shenfield, clinical lecturer, Reproductive Medicine Unit, University College Hospitals, London, United Kingdom. mfi@easy.net.co.uk

Jan Helge Solbakk, chief of Bioethics Section, Division of Ethics of Science and Technology, Bioethics Section UNESCO, Paris, France. j.h.solbakk@medisin.uio.no

Torbjörn Tännsjö, Kristian Claëson Professor of Practical Philosophy, Department of Philosophy, Stockholm University, Sweden. torbjorn.tannsjö@philosophy.su.se

Giuseppe Testa, assistant professor, European School of Molecular Medicine, director of the Laboratory of Stem Cell Epigenetics, European Institute of Oncology, Milan, Italy. giuseppe.testa@ifom-ieo-campus.it

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organizing secretariat

ESHRE Central Office

Meerstraat 60 / 1852 Grimbergen / Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)2 269 09 69 / Fax: +32 (0)2 269 56 00 / E-mail: info@eshre.com

Venue

The venue for the International Conference on Ethics of Stem Cell Research and Moral Responsibility in Assisted Reproductive Technology is the former Dominican abbey 'Het Pand', located in the historical centre of Ghent. The sessions will be held in Room 'Refter' located on the ground floor.

Address: Onderbergen 1 (next to Sint-Michiels Church) / 9000 Ghent

How to get there?

By plane

From Brussels National Airport: take the direct train to Ghent (railway station 'Gent St-Pieters'). There should be at least one train going to Ghent every hour.

By train/tram

Most international trains (including Thalys and Eurostar) arrive in Brussels (Brussel Zuid/ Bruxelles-Midi). There, take the train to "Gent St-Pieters" (the trains with final destination 'Oostende' or 'De Panne'). There is a train from Brussels to Ghent every 30 minutes. The trip Brussels - Ghent takes 35 minutes.

To get to Het Pand, take tram 1 to 'Korenmarkt'. At "Korenmarkt", cross the Sint-Michiels bridge. Go left at the Sint-Michiels Church and reach Het Pand next to the church.

By car

You will probably come in on highways E17 or E40, which intersect near the city.

Highway E17: Follow the direction "Gent", and then take direction "Gent Centrum" (B401)

Highway E40: Follow the direction "Gent Antwerpen" (E17), then follow the direction "Gent", and finally follow direction "Gent Centrum" (B401)

When entering Ghent, follow the parking routes to Parking 7 (P7), Sint-Michiels Parking. When coming out of the parking at the side of Sint-Michiels Church, go to the right and find Het Pand next to the church.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Links to sites about Ghent, Flanders and Belgium

Official web site of the city of Ghent: <http://www.gent.be>

Hotel accommodation

All hotels are within walking distance from the venue

Sofitel

http://www.sofitel.com/sofitel/fichehotel/gb/sof/1673/fiche_hotel.shtml

Hotel Marriott (*)**

<http://www.marriottghent.be/>

Ibis Gent Centrum St-Baafs ()**

http://www.ibishotel.com/ibis/fichehotel/gb/ibi/0961/fiche_hotel.shtml

Monasterium Poortackere (*)**

<http://www.monasterium.be/>

More hotels at <http://www.gent.be/gent/vrijetij/hotels/showlist.asp>

There are also plenty of charming B&B's in the city centre:

<http://www.bedandbreakfast-gent.be/>

Students can stay at the comfortable and beautifully located youth hostel:

Youth Hostel De Draecke <http://www.vjh.be/>

Registrations

The following fees apply:

- 1. Student (valid student ID) = 40 Euro**
- 2. Non-medical persons and Member of ESHRE = 100 Euro**
- 3. Non-member of ESHRE = 140 Euro**

Registration fees include attendance to all sessions, lunch, coffee breaks and certificate of attendance.

Cancellation policy/ All cancellations should be made in writing. An administrative fee of 25 Euro will be charged for all cancellations.

Cancellations received after 1 November 2007 will not be refunded.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Friday, November 30, 2007

13:00 Registration

14:00 Opening - **Guido Pennings (B)**

Session 1: “Ethics of human embryonic stem cell and cloning research”

Chair: Guido Pennings (B)

14:30 The use of empirical arguments in the stem cell debate
Jan Helge Solbakk (NO)

15:15 Killing embryos for stem cells: scientific answers and technical solutions
Katrien Devolder (B)

16:00 *Coffee break*

16:30 Species and other specious boundaries in stem cell research
John Harris (UK)

17:15 Between generation and regeneration: the ethics of human nuclear transfer
Giuseppe Testa (I)

18:00 Concluding remarks of the day
Katrien Devolder (B)

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Saturday, December 1, 2007

Session 2: “Ethics of ART: the role of the physician and society”

Chair: Françoise Shenfield (UK)

09:30 Future developments in ART and their ethical implications
Paul Devroey (B)

10:15 Ethics of evidence-based medicine in ART
Didi Braat (NL)

11:00 *Coffee break*

11:30 Reimbursement of IVF: can ethics help to decide?
Torbjörn Tännsjö (SE)

12:15 State regulation and therapeutic freedom in ART
Jan Gerris (B)

13:00: *Lunch at Het Pand*

Session 3: “Moral responsibility of patients and physicians in ART”

Chair: Guido de Wert (NL)

14:30 Personal responsibility of patients: should we treat the smoking obese woman?
Yvonne Denier (B)

15:15 Against conscientious objection of physicians in ART
Julian Savulescu (UK)

16:00 *Coffee break*

16:30 Must parents choose the best possible child?
Peter Herissone-Kelly (UK)

17:15 Closing remarks
Freddy Mortier (B)

17:30 End

REGISTRATION FORM - ESHRE CAMPUS

International Conference on Ethics of Stem Cell Research and Moral Responsibility in ART 30 November - 1 December 2007

1. PARTICIPANT'S DETAILS

Prof. Dr Prof. Dr. Mr Mrs Ms

ESHRE Member ref. n°: _____

First name: _____ Family name: _____

Department: _____

Institute: _____

Postal address: _____

Postcode: _____ City: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Facsimile: _____

E-mail: _____

2. REGISTRATION (please tick appropriate box)

Non-medical persons and Members of ESHRE = 100 Euro

Non-members = 140 Euro

Students (valid student ID) = 40 Euro

3. PAYMENT

I have made a bank transfer for the amount of _____ Euro on ESHRE international account number (IBAN) BE61 5522 5209 0217 — BIC = GKCCBEBB (national account n° = 552-2520902-17) of DEXIA Bank, Pachecolaan 44, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

I would like to pay with credit card. Please complete the following information:

American Express Eurocard/Mastercard Visa

If private card: Name: _____ Initials: _____

If company card: Company name: _____

Card number: _____

Expiry date: _____ (month) _____ (year)

Cancellations: All cancellations should be made in writing. An administrative fee of 25 Euro will be charged for all cancellations. Cancellations received after 1 November 2007 will not be refunded.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

RETURN TO:

ESHRE Central Office, Meerstraat 60, 1852 Grimbergen, BELGIUM
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Find out more about ESHRE at
www.eshre.com