

# **Social and Ethical Issues in Protocell Research: Assessing Risk and Responsibilities in an Uncertain World**

European Center for Living Technology Workshop  
Venice International University  
Sunday 2 October 2005  
2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Organizers:

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The creation of protocells will raise a number of important social and ethical issues. These include potential benefits to individuals and to society, potential harms including health and environmental risks, and violations of cultural, religious, or moral prohibitions. This is the third in a series of workshops sponsored by the EU PACE project aimed at investigating these issues. These workshops aim to foster informed public discourse on the social and ethical implications of living technology. Ultimate goals include protocols, standards, and safeguards for safe and responsible protocell research and commerce.

The first part of the present workshop will consist of presentations by four experts on social and ethical issues involving biotechnology. Next, all the speakers will discuss with the audience how best to make progress on the social and ethical issues concerning protocells, by identifying key questions that need to be answered now and key actions that need to be taken now.

Program:

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| 14.00 – 14.45 | <b>Christine Hauskeller</b> , Philosopher, Researcher at the ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society, University of Exeter, U.K.<br><i>Critical Reflections on the Biomedical Creation of Life</i>   |
| 14.45 – 15.30 | <b>Mickey Gjerris</b> , Danish Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment, Copenhagen<br><i>This is not a Hammer – On Ethics and Technology</i>  |
| 15.30 – 16.15 | <b>Bill Durodié</b> , Senior Lecturer in Risk and Security, Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, Cranfield University<br><i>Ethics versus Experimentation: Scientific Advance in a Culture of Precaution</i>                                     |
| 16.15 – 16.30 | Break  |
| 16.30 – 17.15 | <b>Jean-Pierre Dupuy</b> , Professor of Moral Philosophy and Ethics, Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, and Stanford University, California<br><i>Is 'Making Life from Scratch' 'Playing God?' – Towards a Non Theological Ethics of Life Engineering</i> |
| 17.15 – 18.00 | Discussion – Key questions to answer, key actions to take  |