

ECLT Workshop, 26 February 2005

The social and ethical implications of protocell technology

Organizer:
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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. The aim of this workshop is to spark a systematic investigation of these social and ethical issues.

The EU PACE project is planning a workshop series on the social and ethical implications of creating artificial cells. Participants will include public policy analysts, philosophers and theologians, and protocell technology scientists (including those in PACE). Ultimate goals of the workshop series include draft protocols, standards, and safeguards for safe and responsible protocell research and commerce. The present workshop initiates the series.

Schedule

• **Mark Bedau**, Protolife Srl, Venice; Reed College Department of Philosophy, Portland

- o 2:00 pm, Introduction to the workshop
- o 2:05 pm, Social responsibility and protocell technology
- o 2:40 pm, audience discussion

• **Brigitte Hantsche**, Soziologisches Forschungsinstitut, Institut für Medizinische Soziologie an der Universität Göttingen; Institut Frau und Gesellschaft

- o 3:00 pm, The ambivalence of artificial cell technology: a challenge of ethical dimension between the conceptual tradition of human rights and socio-cultural achievements
- o 3:40 pm, audience discussion

30 min break

• **Per Sandin**, Philosophy Unit, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

- o 4:30 pm, Precaution and artificial cell research
- o 5:10 pm, audience discussion

- **Brian Johnson**, Biotechnology Advisory Unit, English Nature; BBSRC Science and Society Panel

- o 5:30 pm, The need for ethical codes as frameworks for research and development in the biosciences
- o 6:10 pm, audience discussion