

Dear PACE Partners,

We are writing to invite you to attend the European Center for Living Technology Protocell Ethics workshop on October 2nd. We have heard that you will be in Venice at this time already for the October COST and/or PACE Systems Chemistry workshops, and very much hope that you will be able to participate in this afternoon session (which is a separate event and will not conflict with scheduled events at either of these other workshops).

The title of the workshop is "Social and Ethical Issues in Protocell Research: Assuming Risk and Responsibilities in an Uncertain World." It will be held from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 2nd at Venice International University (the same location as the COST and PACE workshops). It will involve two parts: first, presentations by four experts on social and ethical issues involving biotechnology, and second, a group discussion aimed at identifying a list of key questions and actions items that should be taken up by those engaged with ethical issues of protocell research in the future.

Attached is the workshop program and some papers by the third speaker (Bill Durodie, Defence Academy of the United Kingdom) who requested that they be distributed to workshop participants. We would appreciate if you would let us know if you intend to come, so that we can be sure there is adequate space.

We hope that audience members will actively engage in the workshop discussion and come with prepared suggestions and questions. Please send us in advance your questions and recommendations about critical issues and activities concerning the social and ethical implications of protocell research, so that we can seed the roundtable discussion with a provisional list of key action items. Even if you are unable to attend the workshop, feel free to send us your thoughts, so that you can still influence the roundtable discussion.

We very much hope to see you all there. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Best wishes,
Mark Bedau and Emily Parke