April 5, 2002

Research: Germ-Line Interventions and Human Research Ethics

Led by Rebecca S. Dresser

This colloquium will address the difficult ethical and policy questions that will be raised by proposals to conduct research on germ-line interventions in humans.

Speakers

Anne M. Bowcock, PhD
Professor of Genetics, Pediatrics, and Medicine,
Department of Genetics, School of Medicine,
Washington University in St. Louis

Anne M. Bowcock is Professor of Genetics and, with Dr. Michael Lovett, jointly directs the Division of Human Genetics at the Washington University School of Medicine.

Prior to coming to St. Louis, Professor Bowcock was Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Texas Southwest Medical Center.

Considered a leading geneticist, she has made significant contributions to the understanding of the genetics of several diseases, including cystic fibrosis and breast cancer. She was also a pioneer in applying modern genetic techniques to issues of human evolution and population structure. Her recent research focuses on the genetics of inflammatory diseases, with a particular emphasis on psoriasis, as well as on the lipodystrophies—chronic debilitating disorders resulting in loss of body fat and whose causative genes may provide insights into obesity and diabetes.

Professor Bowcock received her BS (1978) and PhD (1984) from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.
Mark S. Frankel, PhD  
Director of the Scientific Freedom, Responsibility and Law Program, American Association for the Advancement of Science

Mark S. Frankel is Director of the Scientific Freedom, Responsibility and Law Program at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), where he develops and manages the Association’s activities related to science, ethics, and law. He is co-author of two recent AAAS reports, one on stem cell research and its applications and the other on the implications of proceeding with genetic modifications that could be passed on to subsequent generations. He has organized Congressional seminars on the social and policy implications of the Human Genome Project. He is currently involved in a project to design educational materials on the ethical issues associated with behavioral genetics. Dr. Frankel is a Fellow of AAAS and serves on the Board of Directors of the National Patient Safety Foundation.

Nancy M.P. King, J D  
Professor, Department of Social Medicine, School of Medicine, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Nancy M.P. King is a Professor of Social Medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. She attended St. John’s College and the University of North Carolina School of Law. Before joining the UNC Social Medicine faculty, she worked in the General Counsel's Office of the Health Care Financing Administration, and collaborated with scholars at Duke Law School and Georgetown’s Kennedy Institute of Ethics on writings in health law and medical ethics.

Professor King teaches legal, social, and ethical issues to medical students as part of the comprehensive social medicine curriculum at UNC. Her research interests center on the study of roles and responsibilities in health care decisions. She has worked extensively on issues related to informed consent in health care and research, neonatal intensive care, the development and use of experimental technologies, and decision making at the end of life. Her current work focuses on the discussion of benefit in human subject research.

Professor King co-chairs UNC Hospital’s Ethics Committee and serves on the UNC School of Medicine's Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Human Subjects. A revised edition of her book Making Sense of Advance Directives was published by Georgetown University Press in 1996. She is co-editor, with Department of Social Medicine colleagues, of The Social Medicine Reader (Duke University Press, 1997). She is co-editor, with two UNC colleagues, of Beyond Regulations: Ethics in Human Subjects Research (UNC Press, 1999) and a member of the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee of NIH.
Pilar Ossorio, JD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Law and Medical Ethics and Associate Director of the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in Medicine, University of Wisconsin at Madison

Pilar Ossorio is Assistant Professor of Law and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She is also Associate Director at the Center for the Study of Cultural Diversity in Health Care. Prior to joining the University of Wisconsin, she was Director of the Genetics Section at the Institute for Ethics at the American Medical Association and taught as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Chicago Law School.

Dr. Ossorio received her PhD in Microbiology and Immunology in 1990 from Stanford University. She went on to complete a post-doctoral fellowship in cell biology at Yale University School of Medicine. Throughout the early 1990's, Dr. Ossorio also worked as a consultant for the federal program on the Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) of the Human Genome Project, and in 1994 took a full-time position with the Department of Energy's ELSI program. Prior to that, she had served on the Ethics Working Group for President Clinton's Health Care Reform Task Force.

In 1997, she received her JD from The University of California, Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall). While at Boalt, she was elected to the legal honor society Order of the Coif and received several awards for legal scholarship. Dr. Ossorio is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS), a past member of AAAS's Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility, a member of the National Cancer Policy Board at the National Academy of Sciences, and she has been a member or chair of several working groups on genetics and ethics. She has also published scholarly articles in bioethics, law and molecular biology.

Daniel B. Williams, MD
Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, School of Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis

Daniel B. Williams received both his undergraduate degree in biology, as well as his medical degree, from the six-year medical program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine in 1985. He completed residency training in OB/GYN in 1989 and finished a fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at UCLA/Cedars Sinai Medical Centers in 1991. He joined the faculty at Washington University School of Medicine in 1991 and is currently an Associate Professor, as well as the Medical Director of the IVF program. Dr. Williams is board certified in both Obstetrics and Gynecology, as well as Reproductive Endocrinology.

Dr. Williams is a fellow in the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a
member of the Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the North American Menopause Society. He has won numerous teaching awards, including the National Faculty Award for Excellence in Resident Education in 1997 and 1999.

Dr. Williams has published numerous articles in the field, ranging from infertility to the menopause, in journals such as Fertility and Sterility, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Menopause, and Annals of Internal Medicine. He has also given lectures both nationally and internationally.

April 12-13, 2002

Commerce: Patenting Genetic Products

Led by F. Scott Kieff and Charles R. McManis

This final colloquium will address the patenting of genetic products, including the research tools and processes widely used in academia and industry.

Keynote Speaker

Robin Jacob, MA, LLB
High Court Judge of England and Wales and Judge of the Patents Court of England and Wales

Sir Robin Jacob was appointed to the Bench in October 1993. He was senior Judge of the Patents Court from January 1995 to October 1997. He was Supervising Judge for Chancery matters in Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff from October 1997 to September 2001 and is now again the Judge in Charge of the Patents List. Besides patent cases he takes both other intellectual property cases and general Chancery cases.

Before coming to the Bar in 1967, he obtained a science degree (physics) from Cambridge University and a law degree from the London School of Economics. He was appointed a Queen’s Counsel in 1981, having for the previous five years been the counsel who represented the Comptroller of Patents and the Government in the courts in intellectual property matters.

Sir Robin's practice at the Bar was principally concerned with intellectual property in all its forms— from chasing counterfeiters to large-scale (often multinational) disputes between large corporations. He was counsel in two major genetic engineering trials, Wellcome v. Genentech (tpA) and Chiron v. Murex (Hepatitis C). He appeared in the European Court of Justice, the European Commission and disputes in Hong Kong and Singapore on a number of occasions, and, in one major case in Australia. At the Bar, he had much experience in working with US attorneys and in parallel disputes in the US, UK, and other jurisdictions.