

Embryo Research

Recent advances in genetics, embryology and reproductive biology have opened up new ways in infertility treatment and preimplantation genetic diagnosis and stem cell-based medical therapies and related areas. Since all these approaches involve the manipulation of human gametes, embryos or embryonic cells, and could also permit more contentious uses, this development has stimulated a controversial debate about if and if yes to what extent experiments on human embryos are morally permissible and how they should be regulated. In view of the fact that scientific projects are increasingly realised in international co-operation, and that patients are increasingly ready to seek medical treatment wherever it is available, these questions cannot be dealt with on a mere national level anymore.

In order to contribute to an appropriate political debate on embryo research in Europe, the *Europäische Akademie* set up an interdisciplinary project group bringing together scientists from universities and non-university research organisations in Europe working on the relevant subjects. The results of the project comprise a discussion of the theoretical and practical possibilities in human embryo research and its alternatives. It compares the situations and prospects of different European regulations and sociologically analyses the nationally varying public attitudes on biotechnology, cloning and stem cells. Furthermore the arguments and argumentative strategies used in the debate are discussed from a philosophical point of view. The project closes with suggestions for long-term solutions which should be acceptable for a European pluralistic society.

Report Presentation

Monday, 15 December 2003

18:30 Welcome

C. F. Gethmann, Director of the
Europäische Akademie GmbH

19:00 Embryo Research in Pluralistic Europe
Report Presentation

Davor Solter, Chairman
On Biological and Medical Prospects

Rafael Pardo Avellaneda
On Public Attitudes and Knowledge
on Embryo Research Related Issues

Deryck Beyleveld
On European Legislation of
Embryo Research and the Current
Ethical Debate

20:30 Discussion

21:00 Reception

Project Members

Professor Dr. Davor Solter
Max-Planck-Institute of Immunobiology, Freiburg

Professor Dr. Deryck Beyleveld
Sheffield Institute of Biotechnological Law and
Ethics, Sheffield

Professor Dr. Jacek Hołowka
Fundacja Zdrowie, Warsaw and Philosophical
Faculty of the University of Warsaw

Professor Dr. Hans Lilie
Lehrstuhl für Strafrecht, Strafprozessrecht,
Rechtsvergleich und Medizinrecht,
University Halle

Professor Dr. Robin Lovell-Badge
National Institute for Medical Research, London

Priv.-Doz. Dr. Ulrich Martin
Leibniz Research Labs for Biotechnology and
Artificial Organs, Hannover

Professor Dr. Rafael Pardo Avellaneda
General Fundación BBVA and Instituto de
Economía y Geografía, CSIC, Madrid

