

International Conference on Human Rights and Biomedicine, Venue: 'Westelijk Handelsterrein' at Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 10-12 December 2008

Background

The Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine stipulates the legal principles which are binding in the field of medicine and biology. It is the first international document formulating guiding principles on: equitable access to healthcare, informed consent, organ transplanting and the use of substances of human origin, medical research on human beings, etc.

Since the Dutch government is expected to ratify the Convention, the Erasmus University Rotterdam and the Erasmus Medical Centre organize an international conference starting at international Human Rights Day.

Conference on Biomedicine and Human Rights

During the conference eminent scholars from a variety of disciplines (medicine, law, ethics, philosophy, etc.) will discuss the meaning of the Convention's underlying principles and fundamental rights in health care, contemporary dilemmas in health care (policy) and the Convention's impact on national health legislation and medical practice. The conference provides an opportunity for discussion among scholars and practitioners in Europe on emerging issues in bioethics, medicine and law.

Structure and topics of discussion

Lectures and panel presentations are paired with group-sessions, allowing in-depth exploration of issues and personal interaction with top academic experts and other participants. The sessions chosen include:

- Equitable access to health care,
- Organ transplantation,
- Clinical trials,
- Patients' rights, and
- Genetics and health care rights.

During the conference, poster sessions will be organized to highlight research outcomes on Human Rights and Biomedicine.

Keynote Speakers (confirmed)

- Tom Beauchamp, professor of Philosophy Georgetown University, Kennedy Institute of Ethics (USA) (public lecture)
- John Harris, professor of Bioethics, University of Manchester (UK) (public lecture)
- Carlos de Sola, head of Health and Bioethics Department, Council of Europe
- Carlos Casabona, professor of Penal law, Director of the Inter-University chair of Law and the Human Genome, University of Deusto and University of The Basque Country, (Spain)
- Henk ten Have, director Division of Ethics of Science and Technology UNESCO
- Deirdre Madden, senior lecturer University College Cork (Ireland)
- Herman Nys, professor of Health law and director of the Centre for Biomedical Ethics and Law, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium)
- Tim Stoltzfus Jost, professor of Health law, Washington and Lee University (USA).
- Rick Lawson, professor of Law, Kirchheiner chair (Protection of the integrity of the individual), (NL)
- Roberto Andorno, senior research fellow, Institute of Biomedical Ethics, University of Zurich (CH)
- Elmar Doppelfeld, professor of Medical Ethics and Chairman of the Permanent Working Group of Scientific Ethics Committees in Germany
- The Vice-Minister of Health, dr. M. Bussemaker (invited)

Participation cost

A fee of € 75 is charged to participants.

Student fee: € 25

The conference registration fee covers all of the following: admission to all conference sessions, a conference book and refreshments.

Lunches

For having lunches at location during the conference on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th you can sign up for a voucher (€ 12,50/day).

Conference location

The conference will be held in the 'Westelijk Handelsterrein' in Rotterdam. You can have a look at www.wht-rotterdam.nl

Conference web page

Information about the Conference and Registration will be soon available on the following website:

www.biomedicineconvention.nl and/or by email: biomedicineconvention@bmg.eur.nl