



Revolution, Regulation & Responsibilities

Technology & Democracy in the 21st Century

2010-2011 series

» **Revolution:**

The range, scope and magnitude of emerging technologies promise to transform society in ways that have previously been unimaginable. From nanomedicine and acute delivery of medicine in the human body to advances in biotech and the creation of new biological systems; from neuroscience increasing our understanding of brain function to IT helping us to map and imitate brain function, as well as posing fresh questions over privacy and surveillance, as these technologies evolve and converge it will without doubt transform our understanding of what it means to be human.

» **Regulation:**

But with this transformation comes scientific uncertainty and regulatory disruption. Fear and risk have to be mitigated against a backdrop of advancement in science and technology which currently cannot be fully explained or predicted. Existing regulatory systems are disrupted by the pace of new technologies resulting in legislative frameworks becoming redundant and to regulatory “disconnection”. A vast new landscape is opening up before us but there are no well worn templates to help us frame the future. As Justice Michael Kirby notes ‘We are experts without a great deal of expertise’.

» **Responsibilities:**

Therefore the need is great for a diverse range of stakeholders and representatives to gather together to engage with each in order to craft new models of policy making, governance and regulation which will connect as well as hopefully evolve with technology. Models which offer enough protection to manage the risks involved without being too excessive and stifling innovation and the potential social and economic benefits.

*In response to this, BioCentre invites you to its 2010-11 series of symposia, **Revolution, Regulation and Responsibilities: Technology and democracy in the 21st Century**. The series will seek to initiate dialogue on questions pertaining to technology and democracy and the ethical, legal and social implications which arise as a result.*

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The Age of Personalised Medicine: Genes, Privacy and Discrimination?

Thursday 21st July 2011, 2pm

Charles Darwin Conference Centre, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JU

The sequencing of the human genome ushered in a revolution in terms of our understanding of health and disease. The application of genetic and genomic information in helping to form diagnosis, prognosis and treatment promises to offer more specific and efficient healthcare provision for the patient, giving rise to what many refer to as 'personalized medicine'.

With this 'new medicine' has come a consumerist approach to healthcare and the new technologies available have been seized upon by businesses offering genetic profiling and online medicine services. Already patients have easy access to genetic tests run by various labs and over the counter ("direct to consumer" or DTC kits) without being properly informed as to the risks involved and the interpretation of results. Likewise, with increasing amounts of personal genetic information being generated for both research and healthcare, concerns have also been raised concerning personal privacy, data security and the potential for discrimination.

Join us at this symposium, co-hosted with [The Biochemical Society](#), which will seek to appraise current developments and consider the current regulatory position for their use before taking time to reflect and assess the future impact on society.

Speakers include:

- **Professor Brenda Almond**, Emeritus Professor of Moral and Social Philosophy at the University of Hull and former member of the UK's Human Genetics Commission.
- **Dr. Adele Langlois**, School of Social Sciences, University of Lincoln speaking on "*The UNESCO Bioethics Programme: a forum for progress in the regulation of genetics?*"
- **Dr. Helen Wallace**, Director, GeneWatch
- **Dr. Ruth Stirton**, Sheffield Law School and Sheffield Institute of Biotechnological Law and Ethics (SIBLE).
- **Steve Bates**, Genzyme
- **Dr. David Napier**, Centre for Applied Global Citizenship, University College London



All symposia are free to attend **but RSVPs are required.**

To RSVP: [e: info@bioethics.ac.uk](mailto:info@bioethics.ac.uk) | [t: 0207 227 4706](tel:02072274706) | [w: www.bioethics.ac.uk](http://www.bioethics.ac.uk)