

# IAB News

The Newsletter of the International Association of Bioethics

Issue No. 18

Feb 2007

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This issue has 20 pages

Earth Image from NASA

The International Association of Bioethics Newsletter is edited by George Agich and Debora Diniz and produced by the IAB Secretariat. If you would like to contribute to the next issue or if you have events that you would like to have announced, please contact George Agich at [agichg@bgsu.edu](mailto:agichg@bgsu.edu)

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ISSN 1028-5032



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## A Look at the 9th World Congress of Bioethics

An interview with

**Iva Sorta-Bilajac, MD, MSc**  
Department of Social Sciences  
University of Rijeka  
School of Medicine

### Why should the IAB World Congress meet in Croatia?

Croatia, with 57,000 square kilometers and 4.5 million inhabitants, extends from the furthest eastern edges of the Alps in the north-west to the Pannonian lowlands and the banks of the Danube in the east; its central region is covered by the Dinaric mountain range, and its southern parts extend to the coast of the Adriatic Sea. This part of northern and western Balkan is a melting pot of cultural, religious, national, linguistic, architectural, and other influences. It is the part of Europe where western and eastern cultures meet, where Christianity meets Islam.

Croatia is a place where within a hundred kilometers you will find the sea, densely wooded mountains, and fertile plains. According to National Geographic Adventure, Croatia is a "Destination of the Year 2006." "Astronauts have claimed that the Adriatic Sea, with its limestone sea floor, is the bluest place on Earth." But, the Adriatic Sea is not only a deep gulf in the Mediterranean cut into the Continent of Europe thereby creating most economical trade routes between Europe and the East in the past, it is also the cradle of ancient civilizations.

Croatian scholars and scientists recognized the "new bioethical wind blowing from the USA" in the beginning of the 1970s leading them to reconsider ethical issues in science and new technologies and to address new moral issues on which traditional, medical ethics was not adequate. This is why bioethics education was introduced into Croatian higher education system, especially schools of medicine, at the very beginning of the 1990s. Organizing the World Congress in Croatia will significantly help in this attempt.

### What advantages does Rijeka, Croatia have as a site for the 9th World Congress of Bioethics? Does the setting have any special importance for Eastern Europe and the development of bioethics in the region?

Croatia is going through a transitional period. The City of Rijeka has already found its appropriate place in this challenging situation, trying to successfully transition from an industrial centre into a city of services and urban tourism taking proper care of its rich historical, cultural, and industrial heritage.

The word "Rijeka" means "a river." The city lies on the banks of the Rječina River. Trsat the oldest part of the City is on a hill, with an interesting medieval Castle by the Knights of Frangipani, a Marian Shrine, and Franciscan Monastery. Cranes are the most prominent city-mark from the sea-side, which reveal the core of the city the port. Rijeka is the most important Croatian port city; it provides the shortest entrance to Europe for the ships coming from Asia and the Far East through the Suez Channel.

Rijeka is a Middle European City with Mediterranean soul. Within its 43 square kilometers live 150.000 inhabitants, Rijeka created its recognizable identity as a city where a multinational and multicultural coexistence has a special meaning and value. Rijeka is an open city, used to communication with the entire world, eager to exchange ideas and experiences. The City Government greatly supports our effort to host the World Congress. Once industrial centre, Rijeka is developing into a city providing opportunity for pleasant living even in the downtown. The new waterfront, which is planned as a part of the port reconstruction project supported by the World Bank, which will give back to the citizens of Rijeka direct approach to the sea.

Rijeka is a dynamic city, investing a lot in the development of knowledge. This is why the City of Rijeka offered the land for the construction of the University Campus, the first University campus in Croatia, which is already under construction, and which is expected to be completed by 2010. The construction of new University Hospital is also planned in the

neighborhood of the Campus. With the University of Rijeka, the City of Rijeka has excellent co-operation, and we regard the World Congress as an important milestone for cooperation.

Rijeka is also one of the oldest university centers in Europe, and the School of Medicine has the deepest roots in it. The first school of higher education in Rijeka was established in 1627. The University of Rijeka is presently comprised of ten faculties (schools). School of Medicine was founded in 1955 as the oldest member of the University of Rijeka.

Bioethics education was introduced at the Department of Social Sciences of the School of Medicine in the academic year 1991-92. The University of Rijeka School of Medicine is considered "a cradle of Croatian bioethics," recognized by colleagues from other Croatian universities, such as Zagreb, Split, Osijek and Dubrovnik, with whom we have an excellent cooperation. In fact, the World Congress of Bioethics is a joint academic project on a national level where each University can participate offering its "best" from the bioethical setting.

Perhaps the most important reason for organizing the WCB 2008 in Rijeka, Croatia is

the position that the University of Rijeka holds in the field of bioethics in the Central-Eastern part of Europe. Organizing this Congress in Rijeka, Croatia will strongly promote bioethics, not only at the national academic level, but also on a popular level. It will raise awareness in neighboring countries and promote the development of bioethics throughout the region.

### **Can you please describe the theme of the congress?**

The main theme "**The Challenge of Cross-Cultural Bioethics in the 21st century**" is the result of detailed discussion with members of the IAB Board. As a part of Europe considered a melting pot of various cultural and other influences, Croatia is the natural location for addressing this theme. In this main theme, the "local" meets the "global." The theme embraces the challenges that bioethics confronts in the world economy that is shaped by local, national, and regional interests and values that defy easy resolution. The theme is sensitive to the dynamic of different value commitments and the fact that bioethical issues, like matters of health and disease, transcend local and regional differences. It also provides an ample space to include a variety of sub-topics relevant to today's bioethics, listed below:

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## **Proposed Topics and Sub-Topics for the 9th World Congress of Bioethics scheduled on September 3 to 8, 2008**

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- **Cultural Bioethics**
  - Religion and Bioethics
  - Bioethics and Impairment
  - Gender and Bioethics
- **Ethics of Research, Science and Biotechnology**
  - Bioethical Aspects of Stem Cell Research
  - Bioethical Aspects of Genetics and Genomics
  - Research on Human Subjects
  - Laboratory Animals
- **Clinical Bioethics**
  - Death and Dying
  - Transplantation
  - Palliative Care
  - Neuroethics
- **Ethics of Public Health**
  - AIDS
  - Biobanks
- **Professional Ethics**
  - Nursing Ethics
  - Physician Patient Relationship
- **Pharmaceutical Ethics**
- **Environmental Ethics**
- **Human Rights and Biolaw (Bioethics and Medical Law)**

*The main theme of the Congress:*

**"The Challenge of Cross-Cultural Bioethics in the 21st Century"**

**An important part of past Congresses was satellite meetings. Will the 9th World Congress make provision for satellite meetings and how will requests be accommodated?**

We plan a minimum of 2 days before the IAB Congress for satellite meeting. The working schedule is shown below.

We hope that FAB will be one of the satellite meetings, and we will seek other organizations to participate as well. At this time, we can say that there are a number of organizations willing to participate in organizing satellite meetings. These include:

*Croatian Philosophical Society:*  
**Bioethics in the New Epoch,**

*Südosteuropäisches Bioethik-Forum:*  
**Integrative Bioethik,**

*International Society for Clinical Bioethics:*  
**Symposium of ISCB,**

*International Center for Education of Journalists from Central and Eastern Europe:*  
**Bioethics and Journalism,**

*University of Rijeka-School of Medicine and Croatian Society for Clinical Bioethics:*  
**Rijeka's Bioethics Round Table.**

**What are the dates of the Congress?**

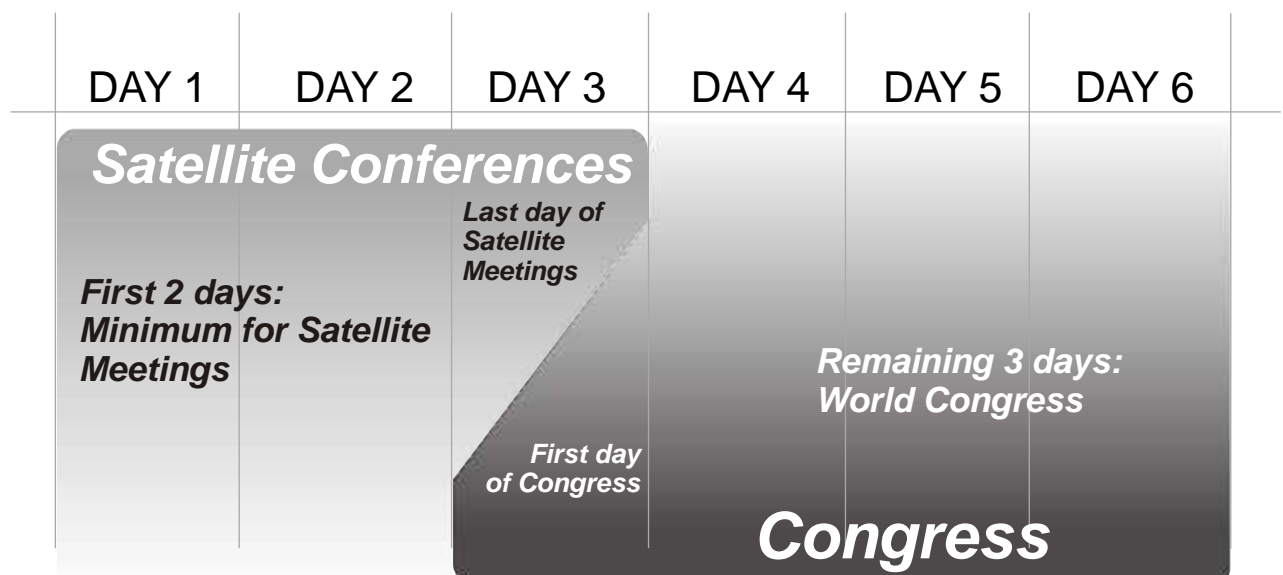
The dates are September 3-8, 2008. The satellite meetings with full program (2 days minimum) could start on the 3rd and end by the 5th (Friday), which will be the date of the opening ceremony of the IAB Congress. The congress will run until September 8th.

**Can you describe the meeting location, accommodations, recreational activities and travel?**

Rijeka has a convenient geographical and travel location. It is easily reachable from all Middle European regions in 5 to 6 hours car drive and has good bus, train, ship and air connections to the neighboring cities and countries. A shuttle-bus connection will be offered for international participants using the following airports: Island of Krk (41 km), Pula (90 km), Zagreb (146 km), Ljubljana Slovenia (135 km), and Trieste - Italy (105 km).

Opatija is close-by, just 12 kilometers away, Austro-Hungarian tourist resort on the Adriatic Sea. It is a beautiful place with its great accommodation capacities. Accommodation facilities will be available in both Rijeka and Opatija. The organizers can offer several hotels: Grand Hotel Bonavia, Hotel Jadran, Hotel Continental, Hotel Neboder, and Rijeka Hostel in Rijeka, and Grand Hotel Adriatic and Hotel

**A Broad Look at the Working Schedule for the World Congress**



Ambassador in Opatija, so the choices can accommodate the needs and interests of every participant. Regarding congress facilities, besides the mentioned hotels, which offer halls for congress needs, we have halls in the city of Rijeka. Detailed information about all these facilities can be seen at the following links:

<http://www.tz-rijeka.hr>,  
or <http://www.opatija-tourism.hr>

Regarding the recreational activities the organizers plan to offer several pre-congress and post-congress tours, an accompanying person program, one day excursions and full day excursions including: excursions to Pula, Zagreb, Dubrovnik, Venice (Italy), and attractions include National parks: Plitvice lakes and Brijuni Islands; Postojna caves (Slovenia); and Adriatic islands Krk, Rab, Cres, etc. The peninsula of Istria offers a unique chance to be among the first to enjoy agro tourism in this region. We intend to offer to the participants of the 9th WCB in 2008 a unique and unforgettable experience that will include science, culture, natural beauties, wilderness adventures, sports, and recreation. □

## Announcements from the IAB

**For:** All IAB members

**Date:** January 16, 2007

**Ref.:** Notice to hold ballot for the IAB board, announcement of list of candidates, and call for additional nomination

Dear members,

We would like to draw your attention to the following matters:

Notice to hold ballot for 12 IAB board members

Following Article 7.4 of our Constitution we hereby notify you of the intention to hold a ballot for the Board of Directors in April 2007. There are twelve (12) vacancies to be filled.

Announcement of list of candidates

*[The list of nominees from the IAB Nominating Committee are included in this issue.]* The inclusion of these nominees in the final list is contingent upon satisfaction of current membership requirements of the Association.

Call for additional nomination

We hereby call for additional nominations from current members.

May we remind you that candidates and voters must be current financial members of the Association, meaning that all dues of 2007 and previous years have to be paid.

Nominations must be made by a person eligible to vote and must be seconded by another person eligible to vote. Nominations must also have the written consent of the candidate to nomination. Faxed or emailed nominations are acceptable. Nominations and the consent to nomination may be sent separately if desired.

For your convenience this is the checklist to use if you want your favorite candidate to be nominated (please send us):

1. nomination
2. secondment
3. written consent of the nominee
4. short description by the nominee

All these documents must be in the hands of the Returning Officer by **March 31, 2007**.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

We also invite you to pay your dues for 2007. The dues for an individual membership are related to your annual income:

- If your annual income is less than US\$ 15,000, your fee would be US\$ 10.
- If your annual income is more than US\$ 15,000 but less than US\$ 40,000, this would amount to US\$ 40.
- If your annual income is more than US\$ 40,000, this would be US\$ 60.

The fee for an institutional membership is US\$ 160.

An additional contribution to the work of the IAB will be highly appreciated.

Membership or renewal payment can be made conveniently online through your account at the IAB website: *bioethics-international.org*

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID FOR 2007, PLEASE DISREGARD THIS REQUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

May we remind you that only members who have paid their dues are eligible to either vote or be nominated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(signed)

**PETER A. SY**

Executive Officer / Returning Officer IAB



## LIST OF NOMINEES FROM THE IAB NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(as of 16 January 2007)

### ▪ **NIKOLA BILLER-ANDORNO**

Nikola Biller-Andorno, MD, PhD, is Full Professor and Director of the Institute of Biomedical Ethics at the University of Zurich, one of Europe's top ranked research universities. Previously she taught at the Charité (Joint Medical Faculty of the Free and the Humboldt University), Berlin, and worked as ethicist at the Department of Ethics, Trade, Human Rights, and Health Law of the World Health Organization. Among her current research interests is the possibility of universal bioethical arguments in a pluralistic global society. Drawing on her background in medicine as well as philosophy and social sciences she aims to combine in her work philosophical rigour with sensitivity to individual, social, and political contexts. She has also been instrumental in producing a core curriculum for medical ethics that was adopted

by the German Academy of Ethics in Medicine, and is currently engaging in the development of postgraduate training in biomedical ethics at the University of Zurich. She has edited and written five books and is author of more than 70 papers and book chapters. Nikola has been requested by the German parliament to serve as expert for its commission on ethics and law in medicine, and has been asked to comment on the Swiss draft law on research ethics. She is a board member of the Swiss Society for Biomedical Ethics and deputy editor of the Journal of Medical Ethics. More information can be found at website

*<http://www.ethik.unizh.ch/biomed>*

### ▪ **MARIA CASADO**

Maria Casado is Professor of Philosophy of Law at the University of Barcelona, and member of the Research Commission of the Faculty of Law. She currently is Director of the *Centre de Recerca Observatori de Bioètica i Dret* (Research Centre Bioethics and Law Observatory). She also is President of the *Asociación de Bioética y Derecho* (Bioethics and Law Association) and member of the *Comité de Bioética de Cataluña* (Catalan Committee on Bioethics), of the *Comisión de Bioética de la Universidad de Barcelona* (University of Barcelona's Commission on Bioethics), The National Bank of AND in Spain, and of the Nanotechnologies Board Ethics of the European Network and of the Association of Global Bioethics. Coordinator of the Networks: *Xarxa Temàtica de Bioètica i Drets Humans (Generalitat de Catalunya)* and The Network for teaching Bioethics, ALFA project, European Union. She also is member of the *Comisión Técnica de Evaluación de Proyectos* (Technical Commission for Research Projects Evaluation) of the Ministry of Science and Education and evaluator for the *Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca de la Generalitat de Catalunya* (Research Management Agency of the Catalan government), and of the Directorate General XII at the Commission of European Union. She has written a large number of articles and contributed to books in her field of expertise. She also has participated in a large number of research projects.

**▪ ANGUS DAWSON**

Dr. Angus Dawson is based in the Centre for Professional Ethics, Keele University in the UK. His academic background is in philosophy, although he has worked in applied ethics for over ten years. His main research interests are in public health ethics (particularly vaccinations) and the use of empirical evidence in moral arguments (particularly in relation to problems in gaining informed consent in clinical trials). He has been active in recent IAB Congresses and jointly runs the IAB's Public Health Ethics Network (InterPHEN) with Marcel Verweij. He obtained a grant from the Wellcome Trust to part-fund a one day workshop on the ethics of infectious disease control (held in Beijing, attached to the 8th IAB Congress). He has published numerous papers and book chapters and has recently edited (with Marcel Verweij) a collection of original papers on public health ethics. This volume entitled "Prevention, Ethics, & Public Health" will be published in early 2007 by Oxford University Press. He is keen to be on the Board to promote the role of the different IAB networks within the larger IAB organisation. More details can be found at website:

[www.keele.ac.uk/depts/pk/people/dawson.htm](http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/pk/people/dawson.htm)  
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**▪ INEZ DE BEAUFORT**

Beauty and ethics, bioethics in novels and films, are themes that fascinate Inez De Beaufort as well as more 'traditional' issues in bioethics such as human research, scarcity, and personal responsibility. She is professor of Health Care Ethics at the Erasmus Medical Centre (Rotterdam). She is also a member of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies, the Dutch Council for Public Health and Care, and the Health Council. Inez tries to combine imagination, philosophical reasoning and a pragmatic attitude in her work (and life in general). She was present at the founding meeting of the IAB in Amsterdam. She believes that the way the IAB has become an important global organisation is very impressive.

**▪ DEBORA DINIZ**

Debora Diniz is professor of bioethics at University of Brasilia, Brazil. She is a member of the board of directors of Anis: Institute of Bioethics, Human Rights and Gender, the first NGO on bioethics in Latin America. Her main topics of research are abortion, new reproductive technologies, disability and genetics. In 2004, she directed the documentary "Severina's Story" on abortion in Brazil. The film won 9 international prizes. She has 48 peer review papers, 5 books edited, 3 books and 4 films.

**▪ JAMES DWYER**

James Dwyer, PhD, is the associate director of education at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at SUNY Upstate Medical University, in the United States. He directs a required ethics course for medical students and teaches electives courses on ethical issues in global health and public health. His writings focus on issues of global health, justice, and sustainability. James is an active member of the IAB since 1996.

**▪ DAFNA FEINHOLZ**

Dafna Feinholz is a PhD in research psychology, in Mexico City, also a master on bioethics from the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain; has specialization studies on gender and reproductive health and also did the short course on Bioethics at Kennedy Institute at Georgetown University and the course on Ethical Issues on International Research at Harvard University. She is currently the executive director of the National Commission of Bioethics in Mexico (with a broad mandate on clinical, research ethics as well as public health policies); founder and was the chairperson for six years of the Latin American Forum for Ethics Committees for Health Research. She participated as Mexico's representative for UNESCO at the intergovernmental committee that finalized the Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights. She has been a member of international research teams on benefit sharing and ethical national frameworks in diverse countries, both projects funded by the European Commission. Also, she finished some publications and has a teaching activity.

### ▪ **EUGENIJUS GEFENAS**

In 1983 Eugenijus Gefenas graduated from the Medical Faculty of Vilnius University. He obtained his PhD from the Institute of Philosophy, Sociology and Law in 1993. At present Dr. Eugenijus Gefenas is an Associate Professor and Director of the Department of Medical History and Ethics at the Medical Faculty of Vilnius University and an Adjunct Professor in the Center for Bioethics and Clinical leadership of the Graduate College of Union University (USA) where he is a co-director of the Advanced Certificate Program in Research Ethics in Central and Eastern Europe. He is also Chairman of Lithuanian Bioethics Committee. His international activities include the membership of the Council of Europe Bioethics Committee (CDBI), International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) as well as the European Society for Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care. The areas of his professional interest include such issues as teaching and development of bioethics in the transition society, ethical and philosophical problems of biomedical research, ethical aspects of health care reform and resource allocation as well as other bioethical issues.

### ▪ **SØREN HOLM**

Søren Holm is a Danish medical doctor and philosopher, and worked in the United Kingdom for the last 8 years. He is currently directing a bioethics centre at Cardiff University and also is a part-time chair in medical ethics at the University of Oslo, Norway. Søren is a founding member of the IAB and have previously been a member of the board and Treasurer of the IAB. His main interests in bioethics are in the nature of bioethical argument, justice, resource allocation and research ethics.

### ▪ **ALEX JOHN LONDON**

Alex John London, PhD, is Associate Professor of Philosophy and an executive member of the Center for the Advancement of Applied Ethics and Political Philosophy at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Professor London has authored more than 30 articles and book chapters on a wide range of

topics in bioethics, research ethics, and ethical theory. A central focus of his recent research deals with issues of global justice in international medical research and the need to understand the requirement that research be responsive to the health needs of host community members within this context. He has also written extensively on the standard of care, standards for risk assessment in clinical research, and equipoise. In addition, He is co-editor of *Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine*, one of the most widely used and respected textbooks in bioethics, soon to appear in its 7th edition. In 2005 he was commissioned by the Institute of Medicine, a part of the US National Academy of Sciences, to write a paper on the ethics of research involving prisoners and that same year he was awarded a New Directions Fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. He has spoken recently at the Harvard Medical School, the Harvard School of Public Health, the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Georgetown University, and has lectured on research ethics as part of the Fogarty International Center training program in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### ▪ **JOSEPH MFUTSO-BENGO**

Joseph Mfutso-Bengo is a professor of Bioethics; the Chair of Division of Community Health; the director for the Center of Bioethics for Eastern and Southern Africa (CEBESA). Joseph has publications in bioethics in several journals and is committed to the development of research ethics in Africa.

### ▪ **FARHAT MOAZAM**

Farhat Moazam is a pediatric surgeon by training. He has a doctorate from the Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, USA. His PhD dissertation focused on religious and cultural influences in Pakistan on decision making processes among patients, families, and healthcare professionals in live kidney donation. In September 2006, his work was published as a book by Indiana University Press as *"Bioethics and Transplantation in a Muslim Society: A Study in Culture, Ethnography, and Religion."* Currently, he is professor and founding chair of the Center of Biomedical Ethics and Culture, SIUT in Karachi, Pakistan.

### ▪ **MARIA DO CÉU PATRÃO NEVES**

Maria do Céu Patrão Neves is Professor of Philosophy (Ethics and Philosophical Anthropology) at the University of the Azores (Portugal) and, as a post-doc visiting scholar, developed studies at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics (Washington, USA). She teaches Bioethics regularly at Schools of Medicine and at the Catholic University (Lisbon and Oporto); integrates the "Editorial Board" of Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy (Nijmegen, Holland), and of Ethical Perspectives (Leuven, Belgium), and the "International Reviewers Panel" (IRP) of Medical Science Monitor; author of several books and about 90 papers on philosophy and on bioethics. Currently she is: Consultant on Ethics of Life for the President of the Republic of Portugal; Member of the "Board of Directors" of the International Association of Bioethics, and coordinator of the IAB's International Networks; Member of the National Council of Ethics for Life Sciences and member of its coordinating committee; Member of the specialists group of the "Global Ethics Observatory", UNESCO; Coordinator of the "Azores Delegation of the Centre for Bioethics Studies"; Member of the Health Ethics Committee of the Ponta Delgada Hospital; Portuguese Coordinator of the Portuguese-Brazilian relations in Bioethics.

### ▪ **ARLEEN SALLES**

Arleen L. F. Salles is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at St John's University, former editor of the APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues (2004-2006), and editor of VIBS Special Series Philosophy in Latin America. She is immediate past Advisory Board Member of the International Network on Feminist Approaches to Bioethics where she served two terms. Her research focus is on bioethics, ethical theory, and moral psychology. Arleen has published articles on emotions in ethical theory, particularist thinking in bioethics, cultural differences and autonomy, and the intersection of health care, ethics, gender, and ethnicity. She is also the coauthor (with Florencia Luna) of "A Complex World: New Approaches to Classical Bioethical Issues"

(forthcoming), and co-editor (with MJ Bertomeu) of "Bioethics: Latin American Perspectives" (2002), and (with Florencia Luna) of "*Bioética: Investigación, muerte, procreación y otros temas de ética aplicada*" (1998), and "*Decisiones de Vida o Muerte*" (1995).

### ▪ **ANTON VAN NIEKERK**

Anton Van Niekerk is Head of the Department of Philosophy and Founder and Director of the Center for Applied Ethics at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. He is also Head of the Unit for Bioethics, located in the Center. Anton is a member of the executive of IRENSA (International Research Ethics Network of SA), and is a member of the faculty that teaches in the IRENSA Program at UCT. He has also created and still is the program director of an MPhil Program in Applied Ethics (Specialisation Bioethics) at Stellenbosch University since 1996. He has twice been distinguished visiting Professor in Bioethics at East Carolina University in the USA, and will next year be teaching in the Erasmus Mundus Program in Applied Ethics of the Universities of Utrecht, Trondheim and Linköping. Anton has published very extensively in the field of Bioethics, the most recent being the book "Ethics and AIDS in Africa", co-edited by Loretta Kopelman.

### ▪ **RODOLFO VÁZQUEZ**

*Doctor en Filosofía por la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) y Licenciado en Derecho por el Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM). Miembro del Sistema Nacional de Investigadores (SNI, nivel 3), de la Academia Mexicana de Ciencias (AMC), y del Colegio de Bioética A.C. Becario del CONACYT, del Consejo Británico y de la John Simon Guggenheim Foundation (2005). Desde 1979 es profesor de tiempo completo en el Departamento Académico de Derecho del ITAM donde imparte las materias de Teoría del Derecho, Metodología Jurídica y Filosofía del Derecho.*

### ▪ **ZHAI XIAOMEI**

Dr. Xiaomei Zhai is Professor of Bioethics and Executive Director of Center for Bioethics at Chinese Academy of Medical sciences and

Peking Union Medical College in Beijing China and also the Director of Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, PUMC. She studied at Harvard School of Public Health as a fellow on research ethics (2001-2003), Institute of Environment, Philosophy and Public Policy, Lancaster University, U.K; Center for Medical Ethics, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany (2001) and St Radboud University, Medical Centre, Dept of Ethics, Philosophy and History of Medicine, Nijmegen, the Netherlands (2007) as a Visiting Scholar. She is Faculty Consultant of International Collaborative Genetics Training Program (Johns Hopkins University and Peking Union Medical College) since 2004. She is Research Professor of Institute of Science,

Technology and Society, Tsinghua University and faculty member of academic committee, Center for Bioethics, Huazhong University of Sciences and Technology. She is a member of HUGO Ethics Committee since 2004, Vice President, Asian Bioethics Association from 2002-2006., member of National Ethics Committee of Ministry of Public Health, member of National Committee on Clinical Application of Organ Transplantation, Ministry of Public Health, member of Director Board, Chinese Society of Medical Ethics, Chinese Medical Association. She is IRB Chair of Centre for AIDS Study of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences since 2005, Vice Chair, IRB of Human Genetic Databases, The Chinese National Human

## Announcement:

### ***Mark your Calendar Now!***

**18<sup>th</sup> Canadian Bioethics Society Conference/  
3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation  
Joint Conference  
May 30<sup>th</sup>-June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007\*  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

### ***“WHY ETHICS MATTERS”***

Location: Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre

Host: Joint Centre for Bioethics University of Toronto

\*Canadian Bioethics Society Conference: May 30th June 1, 2007  
International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation: June 1-June 3, 2007

***-Exciting Details to Follow in Upcoming Newsletters-***

**For more information: [joint.ethics.conference@utoronto.ca](mailto:joint.ethics.conference@utoronto.ca)**

Genome Centre Beijing (CHGB) and IRB Member of Chinese Centre for Disease Control (CCDC). She is member of Editorial Board, British Medical Journal (Chinese Version) since 2003, Journal Medicine and Philosophy since 2002, Journal Chinese Medical Ethics since 2002, Journal of Basic and Clinic Medicine since 2004, Journal of Chinese Medical Biotechnology since 2006. She has published 3 authored and co-edited books on Bioethics and many academic papers in which "Introduction to Bioethics" was selected as "elaborate works" by Beijing Municipal committee of higher education. Her current research grants include the Ford Foundation, Sino-Britain program and The State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA) program.

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## ADDITIONAL NOMINEES FOR THE IAB BOARD

*(as of 28 February 2007)*

### ▪ MARCEL VERWEIJ

Dr. Marcel Verweij (1963) is currently senior researcher and lecturer at the Ethics Institute (former Centre for Bioethics and Health Law) of Utrecht University, where he co-ordinates an international MA program in Applied Ethics. His research interests concern the relationship between ethical theory and moral practice and, more prominent, ethical issues in public health and preventive medicine. Current topics include infectious diseases control, vaccination programs, influenza pandemic preparedness, newborn screening programs and health promotion. Marcel Verweij fulfils advisory roles for the World Health Organization (Ethical issues in influenza pandemic preparedness, 2006-2007) and the European Centre for Disease Control (ad-hoc committee on influenza and bird flu, 2006). He is member of various committees in the Dutch Health Council (Vaccination; Newborn Screening; Preconception Counseling). Verweij is also co-founder of the Public Health Ethics Network of the International Association for Bioethics.

### ▪ JACKIE LEACH SCULLY

Jackie Leach Scully first trained in biochemistry at the University of Oxford and subsequently took a PhD in cellular pathology at the University of Cambridge, followed by research fellowships in molecular neurobiology at Lausanne and Basel. From 1997 to 2006 she was at the Unit for Ethics in the Biosciences at the University of Basel; although she was recently appointed to a senior lectureship at Newcastle University she retains a research collaboration with Basel. She is honorary visiting fellow at the école cantonale d'arts du valais, and has been visiting fellow at Macquarie University and the University of Sydney, Australia.

Jackie's main research interests cover the bioethics of disability and embodiment; genetics and reproductive medicine; feminist bioethics; empirical approaches to ethics research, especially using qualitative methodologies; and psychoanalytic theory. In past and present research projects She and her colleagues have investigated somatic gene therapy, patients' decision-making in genetic testing, lay and professional evaluations of prenatal sex selection, and donation of embryos to stem cell research. She is currently participating in a number of international working groups, with members from the United States, Europe, and Australia, concerned with a bioethical methodology and theory, and disability. Also, she has a longstanding interest in public engagement in bioethical debate, especially the involvement of socially marginalised communities, and has been involved in a number of practical and theoretical initiatives in this area.

Currently she is on the Board of the Swiss Society for Biomedical Ethics, the Advisory Board of the Feminist Approaches to Bioethics Network, the International Advisory Panel of the journal Quaker Studies, a member of the Disability Research Association, and Fellow of the Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. Having been a member of the IAB for several years, Jackie is keen to contribute a European perspective as well as increase its engagement with interdisciplinary and public educational work. □

## The International Association of Bioethics' Networks (2007 Update)

The Networks have always been very important for the International Association of Bioethics since its foundation and as mentioned in its Constitution. They contribute to the achievement of the IAB's educational and scientific objectives, by expanding bioethical reflection and practices to different parts of the world and also by widening a variety of topics to be developed within the IAB. Besides, they also contribute to the continuous work of the IAB that becomes widely visible every two years during the World Congress of Bioethics although it is real every day of the year. Each Network is truly an extension of the IAB, in space and in time.

### *The History*

The history of the IAB's Networks may be briefly told as unfolding in three phases. The first phase starts with the foundation of the International Association of Bioethics and the suggestion to build International Networks. Many Networks were then created covering a wide range of different and important issues. This first moment was that of "Creation, Enthusiasm, and Expansion" and the number of Networks reached 20. Unfortunately not all were strong enough to stay active and develop their goals and projects along the years.

About two years ago, during the IAB Board meeting at the 7th World Congress of Bioethics, in Sydney, 2004, it was decided to update the list of Networks in what concerned the coordinators, their contacts and other relevant information. Along this process it became obvious that some Networks had become "dormant". There were particular reasons that justified the inactive status of some Networks. But there were also some shared perceptions that explained it: many Networks felt that some of their original expectations were not fulfilled and that there was a need to strengthen the relation between the several Networks and the IAB board.

This second phase was that of "Updating and Rethinking". The Network list was updated and 6

were classified as "active". These were asked to state their "membership situation", "goals", and "projects", to be published in the IAB's Newsletter and reach all the IAB members. We add to this data information about "How to proceed to organize a Network" and "How to proceed to reactivate an inactive network". We also elaborated a frame of "Benefits and obligations" which was proposed to all the Networks as a first step to regulate their activity within the IAB. These measures were thought to facilitate the reactivation of the "dormant" Networks and the development of the active Networks.

The 8th World Congress of Bioethics, in Beijing, 2006, marked the beginning of a new phase, the third, that of "Enhancing and Strengthening" the International Networks within the International Association of Bioethics.

During the 2006's World Congress of Bioethics there was a special plenary session for all the past, present and future Networks where the two former phases of their history was presented and where the collaboration for the third phase was asked to all present.

### *The Present*

The list of "obligations and benefits" was then reviewed in order to established favorable conditions for a close and fruitful relation between the Board and the Networks, and latter approved by the Board as follows:

#### *A Network is obliged to:*

- take steps to promote communication among Network members, such as creating a web page;
- in each formal activity, mention the Network's affiliation with the IAB;
- propose a thematic session, at least once every four years, to the organizers of the upcoming World Congress of Bioethics;
- report once a year on the Network's activities to the IAB's Board's Coordinator of Networks;
- promote membership in the Network and the IAB.

**A Network benefits from:**

- space (even a regular column, when appropriate) in the *IAB Newsletter* to announce its activities and pose bioethics issues of possible interest to the general IAB membership;
- the possibility of presenting a special session or other event during a World Congress of Bioethics (subject to acceptance by the Congress' scientific committee);
- advice and assistance from the Board on the organization of Network events;
- assistance from the IAB Secretariat in developing a "listserv" for the Network;
- access to IAB membership for publicizing Network events;
- the international connections and prominence that attaches to the IAB;
- support through a "Network Coordinators Session" during IAB meetings;
- input to the "Network" item on the IAB Board of Directors agenda;
- links from the IAB website to the Network's websites.

Some new Networks were then organized and their proposal latter approved by the Board. The new Networks are:

- "Arts and Bioethics Network"
- "International Network for Ethical Issues in Medical Resource Allocation (INERA)"
- "Philosophy and Bioethics Network"

Meanwhile a dormant Network "awoke" and there are now 10 active International Networks committed to the frame of Benefits and obligations.

**The Challenges**

The two next years, until the 9th World Congress of Bioethics (2008), will be very challenging, consolidating the latest achievements and fulfilling the new expectations raised. Our goal is the development of all the actual 10 active IAB's International Networks.

In order to achieve this goal, we propose two different challenges to the Networks:

- We would like to invite/challenge all the Networks to organize an event within each one's specific field during the year of 2007 (between World Congresses).
- We would like to invite/challenge all the Networks to participate in a collective publication that presents the "state of the art" in what concerns major trends in the different domains of bioethics developed by each Network.

**Current IAB Networks**

Included in this issue of the IAB News is a directory of the IAB Networks, with a summary of their current status, as well as thier projects and the Network's goals.

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# IAB NETWORKS Directory

updated Feb 2007

## ARTS AND BIOETHICS NETWORK

### Coordinator(s)/contact(s):

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Paul McNEILL, Co-Coordinator  
University of New South Wales

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### Projects:

This network will stimulate artistic explorations into culture and bioethics through the initiation of interdisciplinary dialogue between the textual and the non-textual, and between cultures. The network has four aims:

- To promote critical engagement between artists and non-artists
- To encourage and facilitate the publication of scholarly articles in journals, on arts-bioethics issues
- To serve as a forum for reporting of arts events which explore bioethics issues
- To engage in dialogue through personal experiences in artistic explorations

### Goals:

The aim of this network is to increase contribution of the arts to bioethics. It is our belief that the arts enrich bioethical discourse and open up new creative approaches on bioethical issues. Bioethical issues such as cloning, genetic engineering have been the subject of theatre, drama, dance, books and movies. Artistic exploration of these issues has captured public imagination in various ways. Fiction, drama, movies and alternative expressions reframe and conceptualize issues and influence public perception and understanding in powerful ways. Recognizing a contribution from the arts opens a wider avenue to contributions from many cultures. □

## BIOETHICS EDUCATION NETWORK

### Coordinator(s)/contact(s):

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Professor of Philosophy

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Secretary:

Claudine Ménard

**Membership:**

No formal membership requirements beyond an interest in promoting bioethics education.

**Goals:**

- Promote bioethics education outside colleges and universities
- Support education of ethics committees
- Promote the public and interdisciplinary discussion of bioethics

**Projects:**

The growth of ethics committees and formal clinical ethics services has accelerated in North America and has spread to Europe and other parts of the world during the last two decades. The 1st International Assessment Summit on Clinical Ethics Consultation was held in Cleveland in 2003 co-organized by the Department of Bioethics at the Cleveland Clinical Foundation and the Institute for Applied Ethics

and Medical Ethics at the University of Basel, Switzerland. The 2nd International Conference was held in Basel, Switzerland in 2005. The 2007 Toronto Joint Ethics Conference will mark the third such event with a specific focus on clinical ethics. This cross-national, cross-cultural conference will further promote discussion of the process, prospects and problems of clinical ethics and consultation and will provide an educational opportunity for individuals and healthcare organizations to learn about ways to improve the functioning of their ethics consultation services. Further information on this conference can be found on the conference website: [www.utoronto.ca/jcb/ethicsmatters](http://www.utoronto.ca/jcb/ethicsmatters).

The Bioethics Education Network also organized a special symposium on clinical ethics consultation at the IAB World Congress of Bioethics in Sydney, which drew an audience over 100. □

**DEFINITION OF DEATH NETWORK****Coordinator(s) / contact(s):**

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Dr, Coordinator

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Havana, Cuba

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URL:  
[Http://www.changesurfer.com/BD](http://www.changesurfer.com/BD)  
<http://www.sld.cu/eventos/comaymuerte/index.htm>  
[Http://www.infomed.sld.cu/eventos/nfccubana/indexi.htm](http://www.infomed.sld.cu/eventos/nfccubana/indexi.htm)

**Membership:**

It has members from all continents. We are now in the procedure of promoting a new meeting and we expect to significantly increase our membership.

**Goals:**

Our main goal is to discuss all issues related to human death: definition of death, death on neurological grounds, end-of-life dilemmas, persistent vegetative state, minimally conscious state, etc

**Projects:**

We are now beginning to organize the 5th International Meeting of the Definition of Death Network. We want to promote a huge debate on the management of persistent vegetative and minimally conscious states, taking in consideration famous cases, such as Terry Schiavo, that provoked great legal, ethical and social discussions in USA and in the rest of the globe. □

**ENVIRONMENTAL BIOETHICS NETWORK****Coordinator(s)/ contact(s):**

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Associate Professor

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**Status:**

We are active as an organization at ASBH and would like to be more active at IAB. We want to include participants from both IAB and ASBH on the same list, in the same way that FAB does. □

**Membership:**

We maintain an email list currently of about 200 people, but have no identified dues paying "membership" or sign-up process.

**Goals:**

To encourage exploration, scholarship, and activism regarding issues and theories that combines the concerns of the global environment, public health, and health care.

**Projects:**

We held a joint paper session at ASBH (Philadelphia, Oct., 2004) with the "Philosophy" affinity group. We also held an "Environmental Bioethics" affinity group meeting with paper presentations. We also helped to plan and present the "Activism" pre-conference at ASBH. We are currently working together to publish papers on topics related to our mission with *The Cambridge Quarterly*, and to build resources for interested scholars.

## ETHICS AND INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES NETWORK

### Coordinator(s)/contact(s):

Robert M. VEATHC, Ph.D., Coordinator  
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Hans REINDERS, Ph.D., Co- Coordinator  
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### Membership:

We have not included the enhancement of IAB membership among our tasks. We have a mailing list of about 600 people.

### Goals:

To promote the discussion of ethical dimensions of intellectual disabilities.

### Projects:

Publication, twice a year, of Newsletter on Ethics and Intellectual Disability. □

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## INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR ETHICAL ISSUES IN MEDICAL RESOURCE ALLOCATION (INERA)

### Coordinator(s)/contact(s):

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### Regional Coordinators:

Shlomi SEGALL  
Harvard University, USA  
Lisa ECKENWILER  
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### Webmaster and technical support:

Anna SMAJDOR  
Imperial College, London, UK

### Goals:

Resource allocation issues are prevalent and pertinent to discussions within all fields of bioethics and its related disciplines. Beginning from the IAB's definition of Bioethics as an

interdisciplinary field of study, the **International Network for Ethical Issues in Resource Allocation (INERA)** will incorporate the widest range of disciplines and stakeholder groups to establish a vibrant, international, network for research and collaboration in the field.

INERA aims to be a network which crosses these various boundaries and divides, bring people together to debate issues in resource allocation, broadly defined.

### Projects:

Examples of outputs that will be developed as the network matures.

**Web-portal:** The network will establish a web-portal that will provide the nexus for the interdisciplinary community working in this field. Through the web-portal the network will facilitate international, cross-disciplinary collaboration and discussion through a variety of methods. Included on the web-portal will be:

- **Expert Database:** Members of the network will have the option to have their name, areas of expertise and (optional) contact information included on an open access database of "resource allocation expertise"
- **List-Server:** An email list server, moderated by the coordinators, will be established to facilitate communication and dissemination within the network. It is intended to recruit regional coordinators in each area of the world who will keep the email list up to date with public reports, conferences and other relevant information.
- **(We)blog:** A weblog will be initiated that will provide a forum for members to

develop and test ideas, and facilitate collaboration between members.

- Wiki-INERA: A wiki-based encyclopedia will be established that will function as a member developed resource of information, influential work and commentary on the relevant issues in resource allocation across medicine, science and technology. □

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## INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ON FEMINIST APPROACHES TO BIOETHICS (FAB)

### Coordinator(s)/ contact(s):

Associate Professor Wendy RODGERS  
Coordinator  
Medical Ethics and Health Law

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URL: <http://www.fabnet.org/>

### Membership:

190 members from 26 countries (varies between 150-200 with conference on-off years).

### Goals:

Our goals are to develop a more inclusive theory of bioethics encompassing the standpoints and experiences of women and other marginalized social groups, to examine presuppositions

embedded in the dominant bioethical discourse that privilege those already empowered, and to create new methodologies and strategies responsive to the disparate conditions of women's lives across the globe.

### Short description of the goals:

- promote scholarly work in feminist bioethics
- foster international collaborations and facilitate the exchange of information among feminist bioethicists
- support the work of women in developing countries
- encourage and facilitate the participation of un- and under-employed people in the activities of the FAB Network (especially the bi-annual meeting)

### Projects:

Biennial conference, development of country representatives' network, publication of feminist bioethics collections, operation of active listserv and maintenance of FAB website.

### Short description of the main projects

- investigating possible new journal on feminist bioethics to promote feminist scholarship
- country representatives to promote networking and sharing of information (e.g., abortion project they are spearheading)
- maintain listserv to encourage communication and sharing of information
- interactive website and electronic newsletter to extend the reach of FAB (Fall 2005, Vol. 13, issue 2, and Spring 2006, Vol. 14 issue 1. The newsletters are available on line at: [www.fabnews.org](http://www.fabnews.org). All the while being sure that paper copies will; be available to those who cannot access the web)
- Audre Lorde Fund to assist with the goal of facilitating the participation of members with limited travel funds
- bi-annual conference that is recognized as pre-eminent feminist bioethics congress which attracts participants from both developed and developing nations □

**GENETICS NETWORK****Coordinator(s)/ contact(s):**

Darryl MACER, Ph.D., Coordinator  
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**IAB Genetics & Bioethics Network: Online**

The complete address list is updated on the Internet.  
URL: <http://www2.unescoykk.org/eubios/GBNads.htm>

**Membership:**

There are 268 members of the IAB Genetics & Bioethics Network on paper but there is little activity.

**Goals:**

Genetics Network, and the Eubios Journal of Asian and International Bioethics (EJAIB) are forums for exchange within the Genetics Network. The Network will facilitate international communication about research, publications, meetings, etc. related to ethical, legal and social issues raised by both human and non-human applications of genetics and biotechnology. You are invited to send reprints, statements of research interests and activities, notices, news, etc.

**Projects:**

The network has met at every IAB World Congress of Bioethics to date, usually seeing about 20 persons join a discussion. A number of persons may not be IAB members, and there is currently no check of IAB membership. It is not a criteria of membership in the Genetics network. Some members publish papers in *EJAIB*, and those papers are open on the Internet. The most recent additions are placed every two months in the latest issue of *EJAIB*. A short description of main projects and the publication of papers in *EJAIB* and meetings, home page and members list is:  
<http://www2.unescoykk.org/eubios/net.htm> □

**PHILOSOPHY AND BIOETHICS NETWORK****Coordinator(s)/ contact(s):**

James WILSON, Coordinator  
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**Goals:**

The Philosophy and Bioethics Network aims to bring together philosophers working within bioethics in order to foster discussion and scholarship of the fundamental philosophical issues underlying bioethics.

We envisage the network facilitating debate in (at least) the following three broad areas:

- Ethical theory in bioethics
- The nature of good moral reasoning
- Use of broader philosophical ideas in bioethics

**Projects:**

The network will aim to organize a satellite conference at the 2008 IAB conference, and would be very pleased to undertake organization of philosophy themed sessions within the main conference. We shall create an email mailing list to give members news of forthcoming conferences, and news of relevant new work in the field. We shall also create a group blog (website) to facilitate discussion of philosophy and bioethics, similar to the existing moral and political philosophy blog *Pea Soup*. Members of the network will be able to join this discussion both through comments on blog entries, and as bloggers in their own right if they wish. □

## PUBLIC HEALTH ETHICS

### Coordinator(s)/contact(s):

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Marcel VERWEIJ, Dr., Co- Coordinator

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URL: [www.ethics.uu.nl](http://www.ethics.uu.nl)

### Membership:

We have over 100 members on our email list

### Goals:

- To raise the profile of public health ethics as an area of research (within the IAB and in the academic environment in general)
- To encourage and actively engage in research and debate about ethical issues in public health policy and practice
- To encourage and facilitate international research collaborations in the area of public health ethics

### Projects:

Our projects here are mainly informal collaborations between individuals.

