



**ETNP
INTERFACING SCIENCES, LITERATURE, AND HUMANITIES:
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**

ATELIER ON

***From Genes to Cells and Tissues.
Juridical, Social and Philosophical Implications
of Body's Deconstruction.***

Location: Ca' La Ghironda – Zola Predosa – Bologna (ITA)

Dates: 15th-16th September 2007

Background and Rationale

The ongoing extraordinary and rapid advances of biomedical research, already in the post-genomic era, and the formidable challenges of biotechnology to bioethics, elicit an image of a two edged sword. On one edge there is science holding almost limitless possibilities in improving health and quality of life, on the other there is the rise of concern for the ethical implications of emerging controversial issues and the daily avalanche of announcements of ethically-sensitive breakthrough in biomedical technology.

The frontiers of biomedical research need a comprehensive approach for investigating human body organization both as an integrated system of high level of complexity and control (holistic approach), and also for de-constructing the body to study at cellular, biochemical and molecular levels the properties of identifiable parts of the body isolated from their context (reductionist approach). The challenge is to connect and integrate these different and complementary levels of description.

The new horizons of biological research and biotechnology (genetics, pharmacogenomics, bioinformatics, cloning, regenerative medicine, etc.) strongly need the collection and storage of human

body parts and their derivatives such as DNA (genes), cells, tissues for their translation into medical applications. Biomedical research achievements, collections of biological specimens (biobanks) and the management of biological specimens and genetic databases have profound legal, medical, philosophical, ethical, cultural and social implications for privacy, individual and group autonomy, property rights and benefits/risks to communities.

The philosophical, ethical and legal approaches and controversies related to “ownership of the human body and its parts”, as well as the differences and similarities in the legal principles on these themes across Europe are of critical importance and deserve a particular attention.

Aims:

The workshop aims to highlight the body conceptualization and to underline relationships with the juridical, cultural, social level. Starting by recent experiences, we will try to stimulate a dialogue between researchers with different background. The workshop is also aimed to encourage to set up effective solutions for new bioethical treatments, concerning the body and its parts (bank of biological materials).

Direct beneficiary:

Doctors, Philosophers, Bioethics Experts, Jurists and Ph.D. students in Humanities and Sciences.

Working method:

The workshop will be scheduled through different panels where speakers belonging to different cultural backgrounds will analyze different macro-areas using their own approach. The cross-talk between the panels will encourage an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to such complex and urgent problems at the interface between Science and Humanities.

Keywords:

Autonomy, Ownership of Body, Biobank, Consent, Privacy, Moral choices, Risk.

Output:

The workshop will try to investigate the tools, practices and approaches about collections of human body's parts. It is possible to envisage:

- 1) outputs related to establishment of a shared ground of action (creation and management of a biobank);
- 2) outputs related to define teaching/research materials.