

## Special Edition

# Conscience & Science



*A Forum on  
Biotechnology,  
Ethics and  
The Future*



<http://www.conscienceandscience.com>

### **Background:**

The ability to sequence and manipulate genetic material has brought society to the dawn of a new age. This capability has revitalized the world of genetics and spawned numerous scientific discoveries in the field of medicine. The rapid rate of research reflects the enormous untapped potential of genetic technology, but the pace of discovery creates an alarming regulatory gap. Our capacity to refine, reform, and redesign the world is outstripping our ability to foresee the social and ethical implications of our actions. The cost of scientific overzealousness and exuberance could be harmful to future generations.

The prospect of using genetic “solutions” to correct human “deficiencies” raises deep ethical, social and political questions. The results of genetic manipulation cannot always be anticipated or predicted with accuracy.

Ultimate responsibility for ethical oversight lies with the individual. Without public participation, regulatory policy is likely to favor narrow economic interests. Public protests have already had a profound impact on several human research programmes and public opinion will continue to shape research in the life sciences. Corporations and scientific institutions involved in genetic research can serve their own interests by engaging the public in open forums that translate the science and discuss the social impact of discoveries as they happen. The best practices in public policy are proactive not reactive.

**Focus:**

This event will provide a forum for the citizens to discuss and debate the implications and possible repercussions of the molecular revolution with internationally known scientific, ethical and legal experts. The frank discussion of ethical issues, past and present, will lead to a better understanding of how to reap scientific benefits for humanity and reduce ecological risks. Integrated teams of policy developers need to become the norm, not the exception.

**Speakers:****Sir John Sulston, PhD**

Nobel laureate and author, Wellcome Trust, Sanger Institute, Genome Campus, Cambridge University, UK

**Senator Wilbert Keon, MD, FRCS (C)**

Cardiac Surgeon; Member, Social Affairs, Science & Technology Committee

**David Suzuki, PhD**

Emeritus Professor, University of BC, Chair, Suzuki Foundation

**Barbara McGillivray, MD, FRCS(C), FCCMG**

Professor, Medical Genetics, UBC; Clinical Genetics and Research Ethics, BCCWHHC; President, NCEHR, CIHR

**Sam Abraham, PhD**

Director, Technology Development, BC Cancer Agency

**Donald L. Riddle, PhD**

Chief Scientific Officer, Genome BC

**Barry L. Beyerstein, PhD**

Associate Professor, Psychology, Simon Fraser University

**Ms. Clara Westhill-Roper****Mr. Sharik Rahim****Maureen McTeer, MA, LLB, LLM (Health)**

Barrister and Solicitor: Reproductive and genetic technologies: Public Policy Consultation

**Eugene Oscapella, LLB, LLM**

Barrister and Solicitor: Public Privacy and Public Policy Consultant

**David Bollier,**

Author, Senior Fellow, Norman Lear Centre for Communications, USC

**Arthur Kroker, PhD**

Canadian Research Chair in Technology, Culture and Theory, University of Victoria

**Hal Weinberg, PhD**

Emeritus Professor, Kinesiology & Psychology, Director, Office of Research Ethics, Simon Fraser University

## Wednesday, April 28, 2004

### Morning Session

- 9:00** **John Waterhouse, Academic VP, SFU**  
Opening Remarks  
Speaker Introductions
- 9:30** **Sir John Sulston:** Science in Society  
Question Period  
Coffee
- 11:00** **Senator Wilbert Keon:**  
Current Legislation Bill C-6  
Question Period

### Afternoon Session

- 13:00** **David Suzuki:**  
Biotechnology: One Geneticist's Perspective  
Question Period
- 14:00** **Arthur Kroker:**  
Body & Codes: The Biotech Posthuman  
Question Period  
Coffee
- 15:15** Panel Discussion:  
Abraham, Baillie, Suzuki, Kroker, Keon
- 16:15** Public Discussion

### Evening Event: 19:00

Banquet: Concourse Level

**Don Riddle:** Genes for longevity: How long can we live, and what will it mean for society?

## Thursday, April 29, 2004

### Morning Session

- 8:30** Introduction & Sponsor Remarks, TBA
- 9:30** **Barry Beyerstein:** Overview,  
Pharmaceutical Control of Behaviour  
Break
- 10:20** Student Debate:  
Drugs and Lifestyle: Implications for the Future  
Affirmative: **Ms. Clara Westhill-Roper**  
Negative: **Mr. Sharik Rahim**
- 11:15** Student & Public Discussion

**Students in selected remote communities will participate in this session through the utilization of Apple iChat AV technology.**

### Afternoon Session

- 13:00** **Don Rix, Chair, ISCBC**  
Introduction of Afternoon Speakers
- 13:15** **Maureen McTeer:** Patents on the  
Human Genome: Implications for the Future  
Question Period
- 14:15** **Eugene Oscapella:** The implications of  
current technologies for personal privacy  
Question Period
- 15:30** **David Bollier:** Democratic Values and  
Economic Performance (iChat AV) from Boston  
Question Period
- 16:15** **Barbara McGillivray:** Science &  
Research in Canada: Are there any rules?
- 17:15** Panel Discussion:  
**Moderator: Mark Winston, PhD, SFU**  
McTeer, Oscapella, McGillivray, Beyerstein

### Evening Event:



#### Public Participation Forum: 19:30 – 21:30

**Ask the Experts: Biotechnology, Ethics and the Future**

Moderator: **Mark Wexler, PhD, SFU**

Panel: Sulston, McTeer, Oscapella, Kroker, Weinberg, Beyerstein

21:00 **Hal Weinberg, SFU, Summary and Thanks to All.**

## Forum Sponsors



### Simon Fraser University

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With organizational assistance  
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Mr. William (Bill) Melville

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### Deadlines for Course Applications

April 1 for courses offered in Summer Semester  
August 1 for courses offered in Fall Semester  
December 1 for courses offered in Spring

### Short Term REB Appointments

Senate established the following policy on September 24, 2003. "In the event that a member of the Research Ethics Board is unable to attend its meetings, the Senate Committee on Agenda and Rules has the authority to appoint a temporary replacement to act in place of the regular member until the regular member returns on until an election can be held".

#### ORE NEWS

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