Ethical Governance of Biological and Biomedical Research:
Chinese-European Co-operation
FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN CHINA AND EUROPE - THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

During the last decade, collaboration between and within China and Europe in life sciences and biomedical research has significantly intensified. Such inter-cultural research collaboration depends, on the one hand, on human subjects either as donors of human biological materials (gametes, embryos, blood, bone marrow, tissue) or as recipients of therapies in clinical research, and on the other, scientists and medical professionals who operate within their particular regulatory, institutional and cultural settings.

Scientists, biological materials, biomedical treatments, scientific equipment and/or information databases are exchanged across continents and countries. Biological samples procured in one place, are biologically cultured or biochemically/ genetically analysed in another, and finally, the information derived can be transported instantaneously throughout the world electronically. Biomedical treatments developed in one place can be transferred to another country or region for clinical testing, while the chain from donor to bench to bedside raises technical and ethical issues at each of its links.

At the same time, ever since the Nuremburg Code and Helsinki Declaration were drafted in the aftermath of World War II, countries throughout the world have been developing governance procedures to protect the safety, rights and dignity of individuals who participate in biological or biomedical research, and to make the process transparent. These have been very much national efforts to introduce legislation and to build up statutory systems of ethical review in human subjects research. What is more, recent advances in life sciences research, together with an unprecedented focus on the implications of such activities for societies, cultures and individuals have raised a number of dilemmas regarding, for example, the moral status of human embryos, the moral acceptability of research cloning, inter-species embryos and genetic modification as well as the appropriate use of genetic information. And again, each of these dilemmas has been addressed in different ways in different countries across the world.

How does such a *national diversity* of systems of ethical governance and ethical deliberation about biological and biomedical research cope with increasingly *global life science research collaborations*? The conference will address this central question by looking at the emerging patterns of scientific cooperation between two major players in the field of contemporary life sciences and biomedicine, Europe and China.

Based on the knowledge and experiences gathered through five workshops and conferences held in China in the 2007-2009 period on topics of reproductive and regenerative medicine, stem cell research, clinical trials, biobanking and genetic testing, the final BIONET conference examined some of the challenges that are emerging for international bioscience research collaborations, focusing especially on Chinese-European co-operation. Around 80 Chinese and European experts from

Research Councils, government Ministries, life science research institutions, social sciences as well as law gathered in London to discuss and debate:

- What are the challenges that an ongoing globalisation of life sciences research poses to principles and practices of ethical review, informed consent and benefit-sharing?
- What are best practices in ethical governance of international biomedical and biological research?
- How can national ethical governance systems, forms of communication, socio-economic conditions and cultural particularities be reconciled when scientists from two or more countries collaborate?

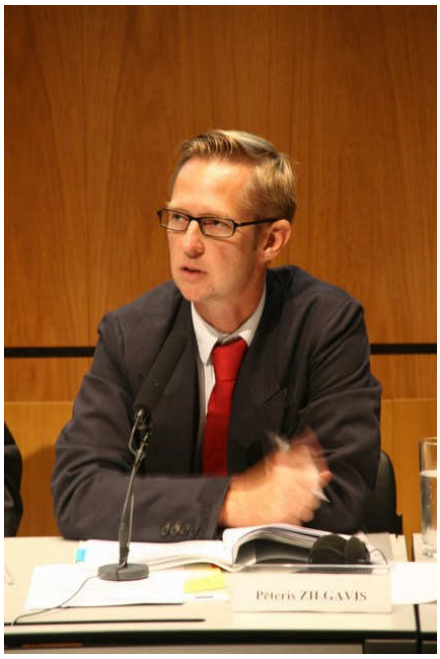
The conference also saw the presentation of a set of draft recommendations for best practice in the ethical governance of research collaborations in biological and biomedical research between Chinese and European scientists which have been prepared by the BIONET Expert Group chaired by Prof. Christoph Rehmann-Sutter and co-chaired by Prof. Qiu Renzong.

EMERGING THEMES FOR SINO-EUROPEAN COLLABORATIONS

Nikolas ROSE (from the BIOS Centre of the LSE, and lead partner in BIONET), opened the conference with a brief introduction to the intersecting developments that gave BIONET its relevance. He pointed out that the issue of the ethical governance of international research collaborations emerged at the intersection of five significant global trends: the great advances in biomedical research in reproductive technologies, stem cells and genomics; the powerful and growing presence of China in this area; the globalization of the life sciences and the key role of international research collaborations, and multi-centre research and clinical trials; the pressures to translate developments in basic science to clinical applications, placing pressure on the research/therapy/product development interfaces; and the rapid development of the global bioeconomy in which Asia in general, and China in particular was playing a key role. Rose argued that this produces exciting opportunities but also challenges for the scientists and researchers involved, for public and commercial funders of research; for regulators facing challenges of regulating in this transnational context, and for ethicists faced with ethical and cultural pluralism. This provided the context for the debates and the proposals that would be presented over the next three days.

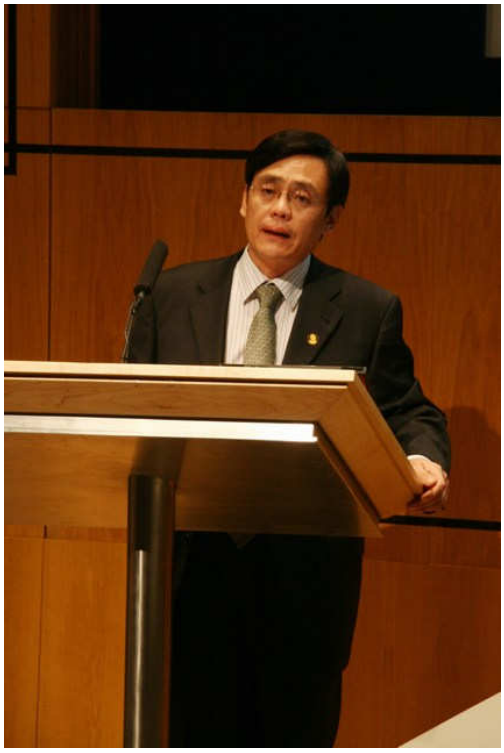
In his opening presentation, Peteris ZILGALVIS, Head of Unit, Governance and Ethics, European Commission, Research Directorate–General pointed out that a final conference is by definition a very important one but that this could not be the end - ethics is always a work in progress, especially in relation to research. It is an area where we can learn from each other: co-operation in research requires better implementation of international ethics guidelines and this is particularly true in an

area such as biosciences. The foundation for a European ethical framework – Europe's Charter of Fundamental Rights – is based on scientific and political responsibility, respect for the diversity of opinions and a search for balance of interests, which was particularly relevant in a globalised world of research, where European and Chinese researchers work as team. Dr. Zilgalvis argued that ethics has become an issue relevant to the place of science in society in conjunction with topics such as assisted reproductive technologies and embryonic stem cell research, as studied in the case of BIONET. Likewise, efforts have been made at the international level to provide a foundational context for the ethical aspect of the practice of science. Emerging governance structures respond to a need for the ethical oversight of science and innovation in society, but also pose a challenge to governance at a global level because of the issues of ethical diversity, as, for example in concepts of personhood and the strongly relational concept of personhood in China. Moral education of scientists can therefore be as important or even more, than the legal regulation of science. He pointed to the importance of the EU's ethics reviews in this context, to ensure that Community-funded research undertaken anywhere in the world, including China, complies with fundamental ethical principles. These reviews use international experts, including from overseas, to review research which crosses national boundaries, on the basis of national, European and international legislation and guidelines. He gave some good examples of the role Europe has to play with its international partners in research ethics for instance in the proposed EU Code of conduct on Responsible Research and Development of Nanotechnology.



Dr. Zilgalvis spoke of the many uncertainties looming over the EU-China relationship. On the one hand, the two sides share many common interests for instance in promoting peace and development in the world; they are engaged in strategic partnership, and conduct regular policy dialogues in many fields. On the other hand and in many specific issue areas, the two partners are facing intense rivalries and conflicts. In areas such as human rights, democracy, global security, intellectual propriety rights and others, the EU can meet resistance when searching for collaborative solutions with China. The EU has to face an increasingly strong China with much greater impact on global affairs, and it is also Europe's interests to develop a progressively more effective China policy. There is a need to build the basis for a longer-term co-operation in socio-economic sciences and humanities with China, and especially the Ministry of Education. Dr. Zilgalvis concluded with a few words on global governance. Global governance needs to aim at agreeing and harmonising general ethical principles, but it must also take into account local cultures, beliefs and traditions as a vital part of the necessary dialogue. This goes beyond research to international trade and development policies. It is up to us, said

Dr. Zilgalvis, to show that we can advance with respect for ethical concerns and turn challenges into opportunities.



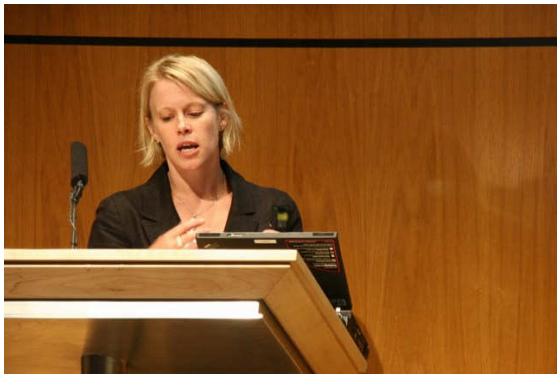
HE Wei, Acting Director of Bureau for Science and Education, Ministry of Health spoke on "Understanding, Trust and Collaboration" expressed the support of the Ministry of Health for the work of BIONET and the project of enhancing ethical governance of international biomedical research collaborations. His presentation gave us an excellent insight into ongoing ethical governance initiatives in China, summarizing the many developments in ethical regulation over recent years, and the need to develop a regulatory regime which both solved medical problems and promoted industrial development. He made several suggestions for EU-China cooperation, including the need to make full use of the global innovation and technology resources, mutual benefit, complementary advantages, enhance the innovative capability; to complete high-quality research tasks; to improve research capacity, and enhance international competitiveness; and to promote personnel training, suggesting such approaches as cooperative research project; jointly held international academic conferences; international (regional) academic discussions and exchanges; and short-term foreign experts to lecture in China. He noted a number of ongoing collaborations including the NSFC-AF (Academy of Finland) Joint Research Projects undertake research in the environment and ecology, energy and other fields in 2008; NSFC-DFG invested 10 million yuan each year to support the bilateral seminar on strategic areas of collaborative research; Sino-Danish joint research projects and jointly determine the subject, joint bidding, financing the implementation of research projects; Sino-French joint research projects mainly invested in materials, nano, chemistry and other fields. He concluded by enumerating a number of challenges: the need for scientific progress; Translational study from bench to bed should be strengthened; and argued that on the basis of sufficient theoretical finding, translation and transfer of mature biomedical technology into clinic with strict ethical governance could benefit patients maximally. And he concluded by suggesting that the proposed Sino-European platform for research ethics is important for continuous improvement in research governance.

The first substantive session, WHY COLLABORATE?, was moderated by Ole DÖRING.

Nikolas Rose gave a short introduction to the rationale for the work of BIONET. The aim of the collaboration was to identify best practice for the governance of research

in the life sciences and biomedicine; to support development of legal frameworks, regulations, guidelines and professional codes; and to identify and try to overcome problems of implementation. He set out the structure of BIONET: Workshops and conferences; Research and training; Student exchanges, Reports on our Conferences and Workshops, together with regular newsletters a web library of key documents and an internet discussion forum. BIONET had been a productive, frank, open collaboration over three years, and, in the words of our BIONET partner Cong Yali, had been characterised by friendship, trust, tolerance, co-learning. But, as Processor Cong pointed out, there was more to do to ensure high quality collaborative research with patient protection and benefit sharing. Nonetheless, as the saying has it "A good start is half way to success!" And the report for the EC from Expert group will inform future research collaborations between the EU and China. Rose highlighted in particular one recommendation from the Expert Group: the need to establish a standing Sino-European 'platform' to advise on ethical and governance issues in EU-CN collaborations in biomedical research: to build on BIONET to support multiple European and Chinese research collaborations; to help build capacity in EU and China; to be able to respond rapidly to changing conditions, scientific, ethical, regulatory; to act as advisors to actual and potential research partnerships; and to help in the development and oversight of regulatory procedures and standards

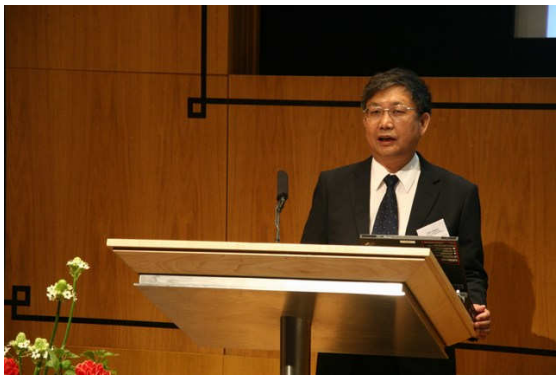
This was followed by a Stakeholder Roundtable:



Catherine ELLIOT, Head Of Clinical Research Support and Ethics, Medical Research Council, United Kingdom outlined the concerns of the UK's MRC in considering funding such joint research collaborations, and the criteria that the MRC uses in evaluating proposals, drawing attention to the recommendations of the CURE report (the report of the China-UK Research Ethics Working Party established by the MRC), which had worked in close association with the BIONET, and whose report was launched immediately prior to the opening of this conference. It was important to examine the compatibility of the recommendations of CURE and BIONET, but the close links between the two groups had ensured that there was harmony between their approaches. The MRC would look with interest at the proposed development of the Sino-European 'platform' mentioned earlier.

CHU Jiayou, Professor, Institute of Medical Biology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences spoke on "Cooperation Research between Chinese and European scientists On Human Genome Resources". Professor Chu discussed a number of examples of international collaboration in genomics research and gave an illuminating insight into the kinds of projects that European and Chinese scientists are engaging in. In particular he stressed that Chinese ethnic diversity provided an important resource for biomedical research. He pointed out that China has a 1.3 billions population that

accounts for 22% of the world population. There are 56 nationalities in China, each of them having independent inhabitation areas. And some of them are genetic isolated population. In the source of nationalities and genetic phenotypes, each nationality has its unique characteristics. There are very significant differences in categories, enzyme system, HLA antigen and incidences of some genetic diseases. Professor Chu



explained the role of the BioSino Genetic Diversity Database of the Chinese Population and gave some compelling examples of the importance of this research to identify genomic differences linked to disease susceptibility and longevity. He also presented information on primate research facilities in china and on vaccine development, ending by arguing that there were no reasons not to collaborate and singling out -Cooperation on Human Genome Resources ; Ethic Issues in Vaccine Clinical Trials; and issues arising from research among Different Chinese Ethnic Groups.

Stephen MINGER, Director, Stem Cell Biology Laboratory, Wolfson Centre for Age Related Diseases at King's College London spoke on “Sino-UK collaboration in stem cell research” and gave a clear and frank presentation on the state of the art in biomedical research in China, and the key challenges faced by scientists in the UK engaging in collaboration with Chinese colleagues.

Hans WOLF, Director of Institute for Medical Microbiology and Hygiene, University of Regensburg, Honorary Professor of the Chinese Academy for Preventive Medicine, recipient of 2004 "Friendship Award" from Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, spoke on “Chinese-European cooperation in vaccine trials”. Professor Wolf gave an illuminating presentation with a number of detailed examples of collaborations with Chinese colleagues and organizations in clinical trials research, including those for HIV vaccine development, and drew many useful conclusions for the structure and funding of trials and for the development of the product pipleline. These detailed case descriptions provided participants with good insight into the kinds of projects that European and Chinese scientists are engaging in.

The next session on KEY CHALLENGES FOR COLLABORATION IN BIOMEDICINE: Lessons from BIONET, was moderated by QIU Renzong.

Herbert GOTTWEIS, Department of Political Science, University of Vienna and a BIONET partner spoke on “Towards good governance of co-operation in biomedical

research collaborations". Professor Gottweis discussed the concept of good governance; Good governance of research collaborations; Bad Governance; Strategies of Good Science Governance; and concluded by considering the implications for China-Europe research cooperation. By 'governance' he referred to the complex set of values, norms, processes and institutions by which society manages its development and resolves conflict, formally and informally. It involves not only the state, but also economic and social actors, community-based institutions and unstructured groups as well as the media, at the local, national, regional and global levels. And it achieves this through the mechanism of politics, and social deliberation. Good governance means the rule of law; transparency; accountability; respect for human rights; participation. Key to science governance was the idea of data integrity, which is supported by institutional capacity and by culture, and by practices to deal immediately with issues of scientific misconduct – hyping science is a threat to good science governance. Good governance involved mutual acceptance of legal traditions; harmonisation of private norms; independent Regulatory Agencies and open coordination, deliberative governance, mutual recognition. And Professor Gottweis put forward the notion of relational contracting as a pathway for good science governance, where parties do not agree on detailed plans of action, but on general principles, on the criteria to be used in deciding what to do when unforeseen contingencies arise: this requires exchange and communication, in particular where cultures differ greatly.

ZHAI Xiaomei, Research Centre on Bioethics, Peking Union Medical College, a BIONET partner, spoke on "Key Ethical Challenges for Co-operation in Biomedical Research: International Guidelines vs. Native Culture". She pointed to the assumptions of shared values underlying the recommendations of BIONET and similar groups, and raised some questions about the extent to which this assumption was justified. Countering many of the criticisms of this belief in shared values, she pointed to the fact that may of the international guidelines were drawn up in collaborations between Chinese and non-Chinese researchers and regulators, demonstrating that a core of shared values did exist. She presented numerous Chinese examples of such shared values, from Mencius, Xun Zi and Confucius to the current Chinese leadership. However, she pointed out that the application of international ethical guidelines may not just a deduction from these guidelines. Even in deductive reasoning the conclusion cannot be drawn only from the international ethical guidelines as major premise, there must be another minor premise as initial condition. Thus, when applying international ethical guidelines to the case which is embedded in local culture, one meets different initial conditions. Each ethical issue (what ought to be done and how morally) is embedded in certain socio-cultural context and carries with certain socio-cultural characteristics. In particular she pointed to the relational conception of the person in Chinese culture and ethics,

which alters questions of who can give informed consent, and argued that family consent, or community consent can still be consistent with rigorous ethical principles, as can oral consent where participants have particular concerns about giving their signatures on consent or other documents. She advocated a "Reconciliation" approach: when applying international ethical guidelines we should respect the beliefs and values in native culture and try to assimilate its positive elements into our procedures in our research. This, she argued, was the only approach which makes us able to properly address the cultural tension, and effectively protect the rights and welfare of human subjects. It required distinguishing the essential core of the ethical basis of regulation, which was universal and must be adhered to across cultures, from a flexible and variable periphery involving such things as the way in which information is disclosed, the way consent is expressed, the wording of consent forms and the involvement of family and community in the process of informed consent. She concluded by suggesting that the result will be as Confucius said: 和而不同 *he er bu tong* （*Lun Yu* ， chapter 13, paragraph 2): "harmonized but not identical", or "harmonized as well as diversified".

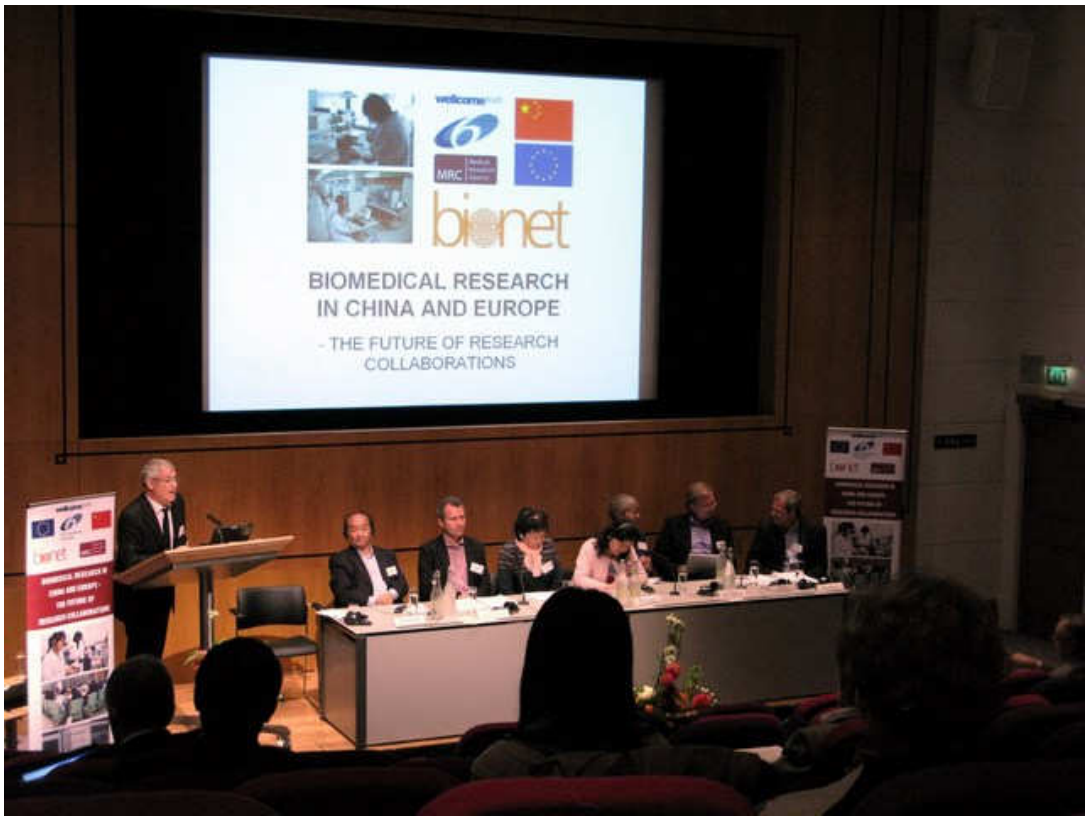
YANG Huanming, Beijing Genomics Institute at Shenzhen gave a lively and challenging presentation on "Scientific challenges for cooperation in biomedicine". After a discussion of the achievements of Charles Darwin, Professor Yang put forward the two challenging theses of current molecular biology – that life is digital, and written in two codes – the code of the four bases of DNA, CAGT, and the binary code of computers, zeros and ones – therefore, as the saying goes, the answer indeed was 42, in this case 4 and 2. This lead to the revelation that life was in fact contained in a sequence, and that we can move from reading the code of life, in genomics, to writing the code of life, in synthetic biology. He pointed to the huge advances in sequencing technology made at his own Institute, the Beijing Genomics Institute, and the creation of the new BGI 'SOAP' software for sequencing, with major technical advances and advances in speed and accuracy, which extended to sequencing the transcriptome, the epigenome and to meta-genomics. He argued that we faced three great challenges in contemporary biomedicine – the rise of personal genomics, the emergence of technologies based on induced pluripotent stem cells not derived from embryos, and synthetic biology and "man made life". The great reduction in the cost of gene sequencing and the huge investment in, and profits to be made in, sequencing technologies had come to fruition in 2007 and we were now moving towards the realistic prospect of sequencing the transcriptome of individual cells and to analyzing many individual genomes and also the genomes of many new species. After a discussion of the great strides made by synthetic biology, Professor Yang

ended by calling for a bioethics that avoided dual standards, was not driven by politics, and supported good science, so that bioethicists and scientists could work together to support the public good. Science was best when ethical, escorted and advocated by bioethicists.

LU Guangxiu, Reproductive and Genetic Hospital CITIC-Xiangya and a BIONET partner, spoke on "Key scientific challenges for co-operation in biomedical research". She gave some troubling examples of very bad practice in attempts at research collaboration by non-Chinese scientists with Chinese researchers, and argued compellingly that it was unethical for the Chinese researchers to be seen merely as collectors of materials to be researched and analysed outside China. What was crucial were agreements that showed mutual respect, with genuine collaboration on the intellectual and analytical aspects of the research, sharing in publication credit, and in benefits, both financial and intellectual. Only in that way would the benefits of international collaboration be properly and ethically achieved.

Ole DÖRING, German Institute of Global and Area Studies and a BIONET partner, spoke on "Key translational challenges in bioethics". He structured his presentation around four challenges of translation - from Donor to Bench to Bedside; from one Language to Another, from one Regulatory System to Another; from one Culture to Another. After exploring each of these issues, he concluded by arguing (a) in respect of translation from Donor to Bench to Bedside we required a medical system which embraces the donors / patients, research and application. A field for social work where communicative skills are required for successful translation; (b) from one Language to Another we needed to address cultures of "applying" norms and creating meaning; different readings of reference language (English); use of alien concepts in key normative texts (laws, declarations, guidelines), Philosophical texts (ethics and science), and Sociological texts and narratives; (c) from one Regulatory System to Another: When building an ethical governance system, the original context should be accounted for. Alien elements need to be adapted properly; (d) from one Culture to Another: The Key Levels for Improvement of Ethical Governance are Institutions (Adaptors), Process (Interaction), Intervention (Catalyst). Governing best biomedical practice between China and Europe, Dr Döering concluded, requires proper understanding and special skills in the complex dynamics of translation(s). - ethical Governance can be created through translational processes that mobilise cultural, structural and conceptual resources, to ensure legitimacy, best practice and continued dialogue.

SESSION THREEE was devoted to presentations by the BIONET Expert Group of their RECOMMENDATIONS ON BEST PRACTICE FOR COOPERATION IN THE BIO-MEDICAL SCIENCES:



Genevra RICHARDSON introduced the twelve general recommendations of the BIONET Expert Group:

1. Regulatory coherence: International ethical standards to protect human research subjects should be reflected in national regulation. The ethical review standards that must be adhered to in multinational projects need to be clarified transparently and publicly.
2. Conflict of interests: Appropriate precautions should be taken against potentially harmful conflicts of interest. Names of members of supervising ethics committees should be made publicly available and any potential conflicts of interests should be disclosed. Therapy-research interfaces need special attention. Patients with life threatening or untreatable diseases are particularly vulnerable.
3. Gaps in regulations: Clear responsibility and accountability within the organization of the project should be assigned to one person or one department in each participating country. National regulations should make this assignment of responsibility an obligatory requirement for conducting collaborative research/trials . A clear assignment of responsibilities between collaborating partners in different countries should be a requirement.
4. Implementation of ethical standards on the ground: Countries should have a system of independent research ethics committees established with ethical, medico-scientific and local knowledge. The research ethics committees should be accountable and have good working standards that include a maximum length of time for their reviews. They should also have the capacity to review informed

consent documents before they are handed out to patients and might have an additional monitoring function.

5. Education and Training: Learning opportunities arising from each international collaborative research project should be explored. This should be done by including opportunities for the exchange of views and experience. International bodies should be encouraged to co-operate in the systematic collection of lessons learnt from the conduct of multinational projects.
6. Awareness of social and ethical implications of decisions: Decision-makers and researchers on all levels need support and empowerment through adequate training. Training should include medico-scientific as well as socio-cultural knowledge, and the skills required to plan and perform informed consent procedures. Before any research collaborations are approved or begin, participating researchers must receive the necessary training focusing on the particularities of the kind of research at stake (e.g. donation or participation in a trial).
7. Therapeutic misconception, undue inducement: Adequate education and training of all those who are involved in recruitment decisions, including the study participants, will protect against therapeutic misconception. Undue inducements to participate in a research study are not acceptable. Study participants should be selected from groups who understand what it means to participate in the study, and are able to make free decisions. Exceptions from this rule should be carefully described and justified. A "coercion audit" must be prepared in advance.
8. Control and monitoring; Appropriate control and monitoring systems in all participating countries should be established. Research institutions who want to participate in multinational projects need to fulfil minimal requirements relating to institutional capabilities and individual professional qualifications. The disclosure and publication of ethical governance procedures should be a condition of peer reviewed publication of research findings in scientific journals
9. Cooperation between research ethics committees: The establishment of platforms for mutual exchange of experience and insight (including across national borders), and the clarification of responsibilities for reviewing multicenter studies should enhance co-operation between ethics committees. Special attention should be paid to the fairness of selection of patients. When research collaborations involving both Chinese and European partners have to be reviewed by ethics committees on both sides the committees should work towards a joint opinion whenever feasible.
10. Understanding the effects of governance: Empirical research into the realities of ethical governance of research should be encouraged
11. Data sharing: Frameworks should be created that allow the sharing of data among the partners while ensuring privacy of research participants and confidentiality of their personal data
12. Continuous bioethics collaboration: A Sino-European platform for research ethics should be established

ZHAI Xiaomei spoke on the aspect of the recommendations that referred to Special Protections of Vulnerable. The set of 30 concrete recommendations) should help to prevent the exploitation of unclear standards in transnational research collaborations

and to protect those research participants and patients who become vulnerable in such settings. In particular they argued that Patients with life threatening or untreatable diseases are vulnerable against offers of unproven and potentially unsafe treatments in research and commercial contexts. Here, proper counselling and a tight regulatory framework with an appropriate level of public or state supervision of the providers will be a necessary step. After a review of the ways in which the key bioethical declarations addressed this issue of vulnerability, She then turned to a consideration of the meaning of the notion of vulnerability and argued that the central problem presented by research plans to involve vulnerable persons as research subjects is that such plans may entail an inequitable distribution of the burdens and benefits of research participation. So special justification and safeguards are required for protecting their rights, interests and welfare – and particularly significant in this respect are infertile women going to ART clinics, egg donors who may be under pressure to make donations, and desperate patients, who may be vulnerable to false promises of treatment. She argued that partnerships with community groups offered a way to redress the power imbalance, and also maximize potential benefits to the vulnerable, reduce or minimize risks to them, obtain genuinely informed consent by communicating effectively with patients/potential subjects, take other appropriate measures to ensure that consent is truly voluntary, foster compliance, and help interpret data correctly. This could take a number of forms ranging from informal discussion aimed at mutual understanding and adjustment of the proposed protocol (where appropriate), involving the negotiation of every aspects of the study (goals, identification of subjects population, ownership of data, and publication) or treatment (goals, design, procedures, payment etc).

LU Guangxiu and Herbert GOTTWEIS presented the aspects of the recommendations that referred to clinical trials, biobanks, stem cells and ethics. Discussing clinical trials, they argued that the following points are of particular importance; Overlap of innovative therapy and research; Clarification of distinction of clinical trials from experimental therapy; a Register of clinical trials; Regulatory oversight, public disclosure of study designs and results through a clinical trial register and certification system for research ethics committees; Procedures for a suspension of a trial in cases of scientific misconduct ; Publication of all clinical trial data regardless of the outcome or the location of study site

Discussing research in the fields of genetics, genomics and biobanking, they argued that the following points are of particular importance: Accountability and appropriate governance structures of biobanks; informed consent and ethical value; Agreement about the kind of donors' informed consent that will be asked for; Confidentiality of samples and related data and protection of privacy of sample donors; Transparency and clarity to donors and the public regarding the purpose and use of a biobank. A change of the purpose (e.g. forensic use of a research biobank) requires consent by the donors; Transparency and clarity to donors and the public regarding the purpose and use of a biobank. A change of the purpose (e.g. forensic use of a research biobank) requires consent by the donors. Guidelines for access to samples and clinical data; a distributive justice of profit with fair benefit-sharing; Clear and transparent rules regarding the feedback of individual

information to donors as part of the informed consent. Pharmacogenomic information considered in drug development and dosage
Discussing stem cell research, reproductive and regenerative medicine they argued that the following points are of particular importance: Investigation of the safety and efficiency of experimental treatments with stem cells in state-of-the-art trials before offering them commercially to patients; public compliance, discrepancies in the legal status of embryo between different legal systems; adherence to the laws of the countries involved, without necessarily downgrading regulation to the most restrictive partner country: clarification of what is allowed to be done to an embryo in vitro and clarification of what is allowed to be done to an embryo before implanting it in the uterus of a woman: Transparency regarding under which conditions germ cells, embryos or embryonic tissue has been collected; quality standards about 'clinical grade' stem cells.

Christoph REHMAN-SUTTER spoke on the Potential and Limits of the Recommendations. He pointed out that ethics, in contemporary societies, cannot steer the progress of science and technology in biomedicine into desirable directions.
Research ethics can help to protect the rights, the wellbeing and health of those human subjects, with whom research is conducted. Therefore the BIONET „recommendations for best practice in the ethical governance of biological and biomedical research collaborations between Chinese and European scientists" were a **‚road map'**. They point out key points to consider and need to be developed further and continually. They need also to be complemented by a larger and more comprehensive reflection on the role of biomedicine in market-driven societies. Ethical governance of research, he argued, starts in the ways we discuss it, and **how we meet**, encounter and address each other. It is not an operation that starts from theoretical principles but a task of common perception and translation. Recommendations are only recommendations, not prescriptions. They only have the force of advice, which rests on recognition, argued Professor Rehman-Sutter, quoting Hans Georg Gadamer's remark: „You can only give advice to friends." Therefore the recommendations mostly concern **procedures** (where to regulate, how to work toward a solution, where international guidelines can be particularly helpful, how to improve the self-regulatory capacities of those involved, down to the doctors and patients), how to protect those research participants and patients who become vulnerable in research settings.

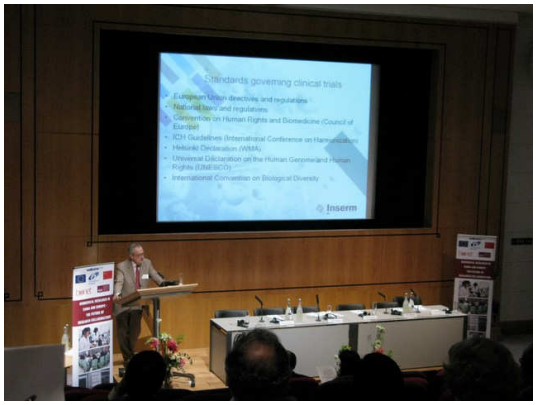
QIU Renzong spoke on Building an ethical framework for collaborative research. He argued that we need to build an ethical framework for evaluating any conduct which will be taken in collaborative research between EU and China, underlain by a set of ethical principles or a set of core values shared and committed by professionals and

regulators who engage in collaborative research between EU and China. Professor Qiu set out a number of key principles that should underpin such recommendations. Principle 1: the fundamental purpose of collaborative research in biological and biomedical fields between EU and China with advantages of both sides is to promote human health, quality of life and interests with safer, more effective, and more advanced bio-science/technology. Principle 2: Collaborative research between EU and China should maintain high standards of responsible research, i.e. adhering research integrity and committing safeguarding and protecting patients/subjects' rights and interests. Principle 3: in the case of conflict, the priority should be put to interests of patients/human subjects over scientific interests, social interests, and commercial interests in particular, and conflict of interest should properly be dealt with by both sides. Principle 4: Mutual respect means respect for laws, regulations or guidelines of the other side, respect for the autonomy of the other side and the commitment that any issue (regulatory gap, or disagreement among scientists/bioethicists) in one side will be properly resolved by themselves. Mutual respect should be based on mutual understanding and each side needed to develop cultural competence. Principle 5: reciprocity: Benefits-sharing between two sides (including scientists/institutions, donors or vulnerable communities), involving Authorships; Royalties; Patents; Access to data or/and samples and profits. Principle 6: Accountability and transparency in which both sides in collaborative research between EU and China are accountable/responsible for their people. The information on collaborative research between EU and China should be made transparent to other colleagues as well as the public, i.e. taxpayers of both sides. A website of biological and biomedical research between EU and China should be established. Principle 7: Public engagement and the needs to take measure to facilitate public understanding of science and lead to public consultation, engagement or involvement.. Principle 8: Equal, equitable and just relationships; Preventing exploitation: inadequate regulatory infrastructures and independent oversight processes as well as poverty, limited access to health-care services, illiteracy, and limited understanding of the nature of scientific research of patients/subjects in one side may increase the possibility of exploitation. Capacity building both in science and ethics is imperative in collaborative research between EU and China.

In conclusion Professor Qiu drew attention to a number of Pitfalls in Implementation of Recommendations, for instance the belief that sciences is always good, that ethics may hamper the development of good science, the submerging of ethics into red tape and bureaucracy, and the use of ethics as cosmetics to legitimate ventures undertaken solely or mainly for profit.

This was followed by Panel and General Discussion with members of BIONET EXPERT GROUP

SESSION FOUR consisted of RESPONSES TO THE BIONET ECOMMENDATIONS and was moderated by ZHAI Xiaomei



Andre SYROTA, Chairman and CEO of INSERM (The National Institute of Health and Medical Research), France, Member of EUROHORC European Association of the heads of research funding organisations spoke on "Ethics of biomedical research - clinical trials: an EU prospective", He argued that ethical research was research that was relevant for the study population; scientifically sound and meets universal ethical standards. He argued that while patients ability to give fully informed consent varied with many factors, with age, education and cultural beliefs involving family and community, individual written informed consent must remain the rule. There must be ethical review in BOTH countries, by committed with Independence from research team and from sponsor, with clear rules for membership, and with formal operating processes, including record-keeping. And he argued that post study benefits for patients, subjects and communities were crucial and were required by international guidelines. He continued by expressing concern about the proliferation of contract research organizations undertaking clinical trials for profit. And he concluded by presenting different models of collaborating on clinical trials research, showing how some requests for funding had been turned clown on ethical grounds, and others provided models of good practice, thus providing us with some criteria to distinguish between failed and successful models. Professor Syrota concluded with a telling quote from Marcia Angell, former editor of the New England Journal of Medicine: "Ethical lapses are almost never cases of bad people, doing bad things, for no good reason. Rather, they are good people, doing bad things, for good reasons."

QI Guoming, Vice-Chair, Chinese Medical Association (CMA) spoke on "Sino-European cooperation in biological and bio-medical research ethics". He agreed that the proposed Sino-European platform for research ethics is important, but he also pointed out that its functions should be clearly specified, and if it was to play important functions, the participants should be qualified, and it should be authoritative and have its own budget. Dr. QI also gave comments and feedback on the BIONET Expert Group's recommendations which highlighted a number of key points for the revision and development of these recommendations.

Jochen TAUPITZ, Chair of Civil Law, University of Mannheim and member of the German Ethics Council EU: "The BIONET Draft Recommendations - some remarks from outside". Prof Taupitz subjected the draft recommendations to detailed scrutiny and made many excellent suggestions for improvement and clarity which proved very productive for the BIONET Expert Group.

HU Qing-li, Director of the Independent Ethics Committee, Shanghai Clinical Research Center, Member of the Ethics Committee, Ministry of Health China and former Assistant Director-General of WHO spoke on "Comments on the best practice in ethical governance of biological and biomedical research collaboration between

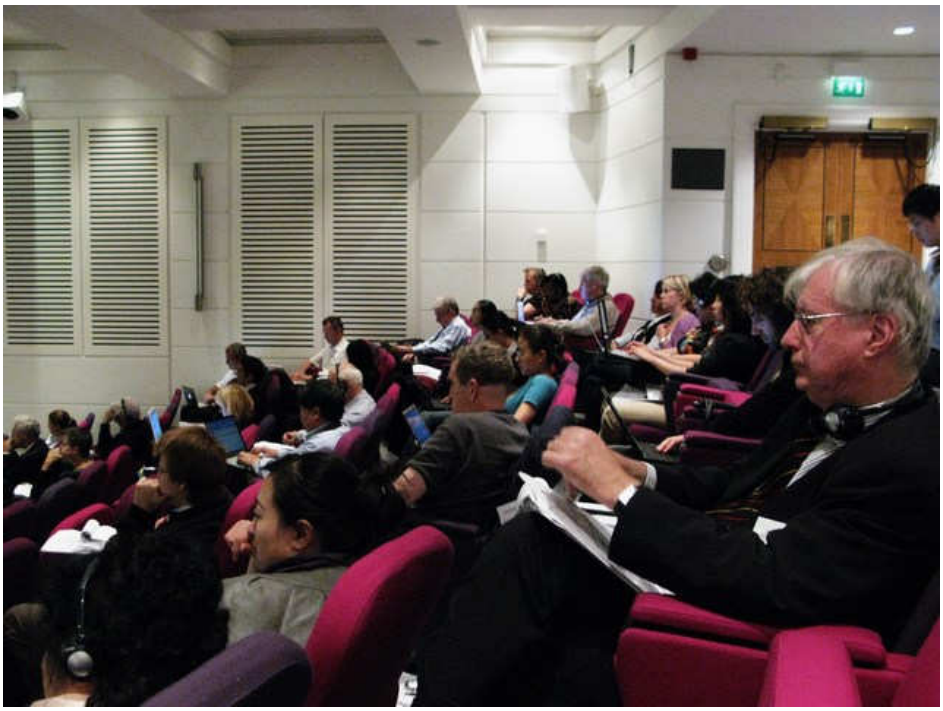
Chinese and European Scientists". He pointed in particular to the urgent need to address the problem of unproven stem cell interventions being marketed directly to patients. A study group had been supported by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Science and Technology, which had led to the Management Practice for Clinical Application of Medical Technology, issued on 16 March 2009 and coming into force on 1 May 2009. It is hope this managerial practice will put a stop to such unauthorized medical practices as stem-cell interventions and brain surgeries. The initiative is welcomed by the medical community in and outside China. "It is a step in the right direction", However, it was considered that the impact of the regulation will depend on its effective implementation.

The new regulation divides medical treatments into three categories. Type I and type II categories include those that have proved to be safe and effective, with type II therapies carrying higher risks and entailing potential ethical issues. Individual hospitals are responsible for overseeing type I interventions, whereas provincial health bureaus regulate those falling into type II category. More importantly, the new regulation bans the use of xeno-transplantation of stem cells, human somatic-cell cloning, and cross-species gene therapies in clinical application. The ministry will directly regulate so-called type III interventions procedures. Prof. Hu pointed out that attempts to develop a stem cell-based intervention into an accepted standard of medical practice are particularly difficult processes and that attention should be paid to ensure the quality and safety of stem cell and its derived products. In particular there was a need strictly to distinguish pre-clinical research, clinical Research, innovative interventions (experimental therapy) and clinical Applications.

Professor Hu drew our attention to the forthcoming international symposium, supported by the MOH and the MOST, to be held in Shanghai from10-12 Dec. 2009 with delegates from WHO, UNESCO, NIH, FDA, and expertise from abroad and Hang Kong. The major agenda of this event will cover the Establishment and Evaluation of the Bioethics Committee; governance of Ethics Committees; Standard Operation Procedures; Continuing Training of the EC Member; Informed Consent and Some Special Issues related to consent; Multinational Clinical trials and Foreign Investigator in China; and the proposal for an International Clinical Trial Registry. He concluded by expressing some concern about the difficulties of regulation of the burgeoning new field of personal genomics. He also made some specific suggestions for amendment and improvement of the BIONET draft recommendations.

This was followed by presentations of the CASE STUDIES ON STEM CELL AND GENOMIC RESEARCH BIONET EXCHANGE STUDENTS Introduced and Chaired by Ayo WAHLBERG. He Jing, CITIC-Xiangya Reproductive and Genetic Hospital presented some findings from her research on "Psychosocial aspects of IVF patients - China- Denmark comparison". Achim Roseman, University of Sussex introduced his research on "Narratives of life, value, hope an death - Disentangling the IVF embryo in China". Anika Mitzkat presented some findings from her work on "Donation of 'spare'' embryos for stem cell research - Experiences and views of couples undergoing IVF at CITIC-Xiangya Hospital. Zhang Yueyue, BIOS Centre, London School of Economics spoke on Reproduction and Genetics", "Government?

Governance.- A case study of hematopoietic stem cell banks in Beijing". Chen Haidan, Zhejiang University spoke on "Stem Cell Governance in China: from Bench to Bedside?" . Thomas Streitfellner, Life Science Governance Research Platform, University of Vienna spoke on "Imagined regulation: comparing human: embryonic stem cell research in China and the UK". Su Yeyang, Beijing Genomics Institute introduced her views on the nature of "Scientist – Public Engagement: a start to understand the new partnerships in today's biomedical research",

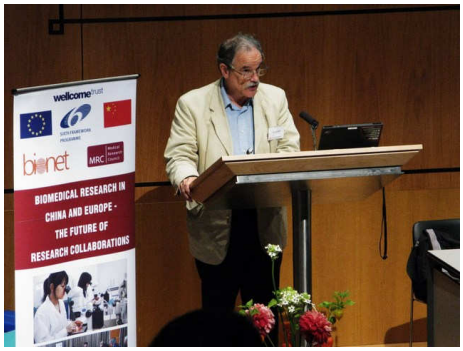


The final session of the conference was on the topic of CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION, and was moderated by Herbert GOTTWEIS

YU Xiucheng, Ministry of Health, P.R. China spoke on "Biotechnology and life science research". After reviewing both the Asian and European tradition of ethics, YU Xiucheng emphasised the mutual influence of social development and technological advancement had on each other. He further pointed out in the recent century China's medical ethics has been in line with major international conventions. He proposed more substantial and frequent dialogues between bioethicists and scientists in order to ensure scientific and social development being achieved with harmony and efficiency.

This was followed by a panel discussion. LIU Wei, Hunan Institute for Stem Cell Engineering argued for the importance of self-discipline among all the participants in international collaborations, effective and regular communication; cultural, social, legal, religious and economic understanding between participants, mutual respect and the wish to seek common ground on major issues while reserving differences on minor ones – or, as the Chinese phrase has it 和而不同(Harmony in diversity) while avoiding the problems of multiple standards.

ZHU Wei, Associate Professor at in the Department of Social Sciences of Fudan University, Member of Ethics Committee, Shanghai Municipal Bureau for Health and Member of Board of Directors, Chinese Society for Bioethics, spoke on the topic of "Gender Perspective on the Implementation of the Recommendation". She argued strongly that the structural position of women in China and other developing countries made them a special category among the vulnerable. In particular, the female population will become more central to the development of the regenerative medicine industries. In circumstances of gender inequality, women from developing countries, who are involved in stem cell research are bearing a double or even a triple burden, compared to those from developed countries. She suggested that the BIONET Expert Group's recommendations should clarify the researchers' responsibility and accountability for protecting women's rights and interests and must take account of this special vulnerability, and more generally of the importance of gender when working to protect human subjects.



Finally, Nick BUNNIN, University of Oxford, made the point that both bioscience and bioethics are both changing with astonishing speed and that concerns will alter as these fields mature. We should not be content with implementing static rules for static science. He argued that there are different layers of bioethics, each with its own problems. We will be blind to important ethical questions if we focus on some layers and ignore others. Gaps and overlaps occur among the layers as well as between Chinese and European implementation and between implementation in different European states. Ethical regulation must be understood as a whole, with specialist domains, such as 'donor's ethics' or 'investigator's ethics', seen in the wider context. Also, bioethical considerations (regarding benefit sharing, for example) should force business ethics to widen its concerns as bioscience leads to products and treatments of commercial value. Bioethical regimes can gain coherence, intelligibility and legitimacy through the influence of current interdisciplinary developments in the theory of regulation.

Internalisation of bioethical rules for Sino-European research, BUNNIN said will fail if they are seen as special rules, on the model of nineteenth-century Western extra-territoriality, rather than rules used for domestic as well as collaborative bioscience. Just like collaboration between Chinese and foreign economists provided intellectual grounding for the Chinese economic transformation over the last three decades, collaboration in bioethics can help to guide the regulation of Chinese and international bioscience. Like Francois Jullien, who studies Chinese philosophy in order to understand European philosophy, Western participants in a Sino-European Bioethical Research Platform can learn much about bioethics in Europe by helping to develop bioethics in China. In particular, we can move beyond the concern of the Confucian small person for profit to the concern of the Confucian sage for humanity who argued for the value of further Chinese-European collaboration.

The conference closed with a talk from Eero VUORIO, Professor of Molecular Biology and Chancellor, University of Turku, Chair, National Advisory Board for Research Ethics, Chair of the European Research Council identification committee, Executive Manager of BBMRI. His presentation on "Challenges Of Implementation" was a frank and detailed discussion on the challenges faced when implementing different kinds of ethical guidelines in scientific research practice which was of great value to the BIONET Expert Group. Pointing to some of the challenges, such as agreement on terminology and the difficulty of communicating complex biological information to lay participants in research, and the growing issue of ensuring data integrity. He stressed the role of research funders setting conditions for funding of international collaborative research & mobility: adherence to international (and national) ethical guidelines and legislation; adherence to international guidelines for good scientific practice/responsible conduct of research; agreement on methodology to investigate alleged misconduct; agreement on sharing of samples and data; agreement on publication of results and data, and on protection of research subjects. And he highlighted the importance of ensuring that guidelines are formulated in a manner that makes them practicable.

Closing the conference, Nikolas Rose, for the BIONET consortium thanked all delegates and participants for their stimulating contributions and commented on the great strides that BIONET had made, as a practical experiment in international research collaboration, over some five years since the consortium began to be established. He pointed to the necessity for care and commitment if trust, communication and collaboration was to be built, and the role of friendship in ensuring that disagreements could be aired and overcome, and differences embraced within a continuing collaborative endeavour. He remarked in particular on the enduring partnerships established by the BIONET exchange students, which provided a very good basis for the future of collaborations, and were examples of the kinds of empirical investigations that were necessary to examine the ways in which bioethical guidelines and procedures actually worked in practice, which was a key to the development of effective implementation. In particular, it was necessary to accept the reality of the context in which contemporary biomedical research takes place, and neither to ignore or condemn the intrinsic economic context within which such research is situation, but to understand and regulate these economic factors. In conclusion, he outlined the future steps that would be taken before the formal ending of the BIONET on 30th September 2009. these included the preparation of a Conference Report which would be available on our website, and the revision of the Recommendations in the light of the very helpful discussions. It was clear that the key principles of research collaboration were widely shared, and provided a 'hard core' around which such collaborations could build, recognising the need for flexibility around that core to adapt to local circumstances. While our good start was certainly half way to success, the task for the future was to make sure that our shared

understandings of good ethical governance of biomedical research collaborations were implemented, and expressed his hope that the proposal of a Sino-European Platform for Biomedical Research Ethics would prove an effective way to take forward the work of the BIONET and of all those who had participated in our workshops and conferences.

MEDIA RELEASE

September 4, 2009

Tighter controls needed on 'stem cell tourism' say European and Chinese experts

Vulnerable patients who travel abroad for unproven and potentially unsafe stem cell treatments need to be better protected says a report published by a team of expert researchers from Europe and China today (Friday 4 September).

The report calls for countries to develop more effective regulation of experimental stem cell procedures by insisting on rigorous clinical studies and ethical reviews before they can be offered as treatments.

The proposals come from a group of 10 Chinese and European experts, from the fields of medicine, ethics, law, political science and social science. Their Expert Group is an independent part of the BIONET project, a Sino-European collaboration based at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

The BIONET Expert Group report sets out 30 recommendations for the ethical and structural development of European-Chinese collaborative research in the biological and biomedical sciences. The recommendations are based on a series of five workshops and conferences organised by BIONET in Beijing, Shanghai, Xi'an, Changsha and Shenzhen. These covered the topics of stem cell research, clinical trials and genomics research and involved participation from leading scientists, ethicists, lawyers and policy makers from Europe and China.

The growing global stem cell tourism economy has been fuelled by claims of treatments for hitherto untreatable conditions, the formation of patient networks, falling travel costs and the establishment of high quality medical facilities combined with undeveloped or non-existent national regulations.

While most stem cell therapies have not undergone clinical trials, clinics throughout the world, including Europe, Asia and the Americas, are offering patients – who are often extremely vulnerable and have exhausted all other options – expensive and unproven treatments.

Qiu Renzong, Professor of Bioethics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the co-chair of the BIONET Expert Group, said: 'Stem cell research is tremendously exciting and may lead to potential treatments. However its development must be governed in an ethical and responsible way if it is to fulfil its potential and not experience a backlash from public opinion.

'Many countries, including China and those in the EU, are now starting to regulate these therapies. However, if patients are to be properly protected, regulation needs to be enforceable and effective.'

The BIONET Expert Group's report makes a number of other recommendations on Sino-European research collaborations including greater clarity and more precise regulation of clinical trials, international agreements about the ethics and transparency of biobanking – the storing of human blood and tissue for research purposes – and the establishment of a permanent China-Europe partnership on research ethics.

Christoph Rehmann-Sutter, co-Chair of the Expert Group and Professor of Bioethics, said: 'European and Chinese research teams are collaborating on some really exciting bioscience. As with all relationships that reach across cultures, difficult issues can arise because of social, moral, political and other differences. Our recommendations are intended to sketch out where these problems can arise and how to prevent them. We hope this will allow research to be steered in an ethically sound way.'

BIONET has spent three years examining developments in biological and biomedical research and practice in Europe and China. The BIONET Expert Group's recommendations are being presented for approval at the project's final conference in London from 2 - 4 September.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

BIONET is a Consortium of 21 European and Chinese partners examining the challenges facing the ethical governance of research in the life sciences and biomedicine in China and the EU. It is funded under the European Commission Sixth Framework programme with support from the United Kingdom's Medical Research Council.

The BIONET conference is taking place at the Wellcome Collection Conference Centre in Euston Road, London NW1 from 2-4 September 2009.

The BIONET Expert Group report – *Draft recommendations for best practice in the ethical governance of biological and biomedical research collaborations between Chinese and European scientists* is available to journalists from the LSE press office.

For more information contact:

Dr Ayo Wahlberg, BIONET Tel: 07906 707978 E: a.j.wahlberg@lse.ac.uk
Sue Windebank, LSE Press Office Tel: 020 7955 7440 E: pressoffice@lse.ac.uk

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Page last updated at 23:18 GMT, Thursday, 3 September 2009 00:18 UK

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Safety call over stem cell trips

A clampdown on unproven and potentially unsafe stem cell research is being called for by an expert group.

Bionet, a group of expert Chinese and European doctors, lawyers and bioethicists, says countries throughout the world must develop more effective regulation for this emerging science.

Stem cells in umbilical cord blood have been used to treat blood disease

They say desperate patients are being subjected to a huge amount of hype when they travel abroad for treatments.

The only way to counter that is through proper clinical trials, they say.

Professor Nicholas Rose, from the London School of Economics, who led the group, said Bionet's team had talked to physicians in China

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News

Ethics scrutiny needed for Chinese–European projects

Panel calls for joint advisory body to monitor research.

Daniel Cressey

Biomedical research collaborations between Europe and China need greater ethical oversight to combat unregulated stem-cell therapies and prevent the exploitation of clinical-trial participants. That's the message from a group of bioethics experts who are part of the Chinese–European BIONET project, a partnership set up to examine scientific collaborations between the regions. Over the past three years, it has run a series of workshops in China to produce a set of best-practice guidelines for scientists working in fields such as reproductive and regenerative medicine, stem-cell research and human-tissue biobanking.

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China cracks down on stem cell tourism

› 00:01 04 September 2009 by **Andy Coghlan**
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Chinese and European researchers have today published ethical guidelines aimed at discouraging Chinese doctors from offering patients unproven or sham treatments based on stem cells.

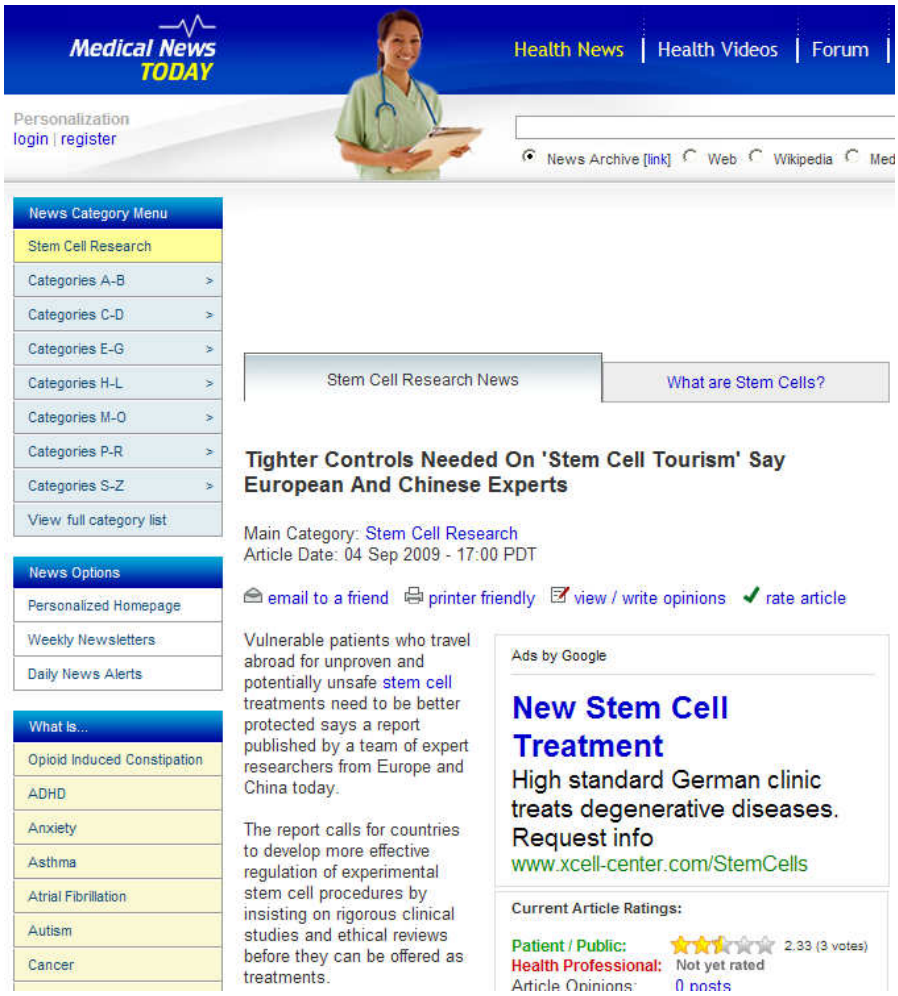
The authors hope the move will reinforce legal curbs on stem cell treatments introduced on 1 May by China's ministry of health.

The launch follows new allegations of fraud in stem cell research, and the arrest of individuals in Hungary allegedly offering bogus treatments.

Untested therapies

Since May, Chinese institutions have been forbidden from commercialising stem cell treatments without first proving that they work through proper clinical trials.

"Now you must get approval from the health ministry first," says Qiu Renzong, vice president of the Chinese ministry of health's ethics committee, and co-author of the new European-Chinese guidelines launched today in London.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Tighter Controls Needed On 'Stem Cell Tourism' Say European And Chinese Experts
Main Category: Stem Cell Research
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Vulnerable patients who travel abroad for unproven and potentially unsafe stem cell treatments need to be better protected says a report published by a team of expert researchers from Europe and China today.
The report calls for countries to develop more effective regulation of experimental stem cell procedures by insisting on rigorous clinical studies and ethical reviews before they can be offered as treatments.
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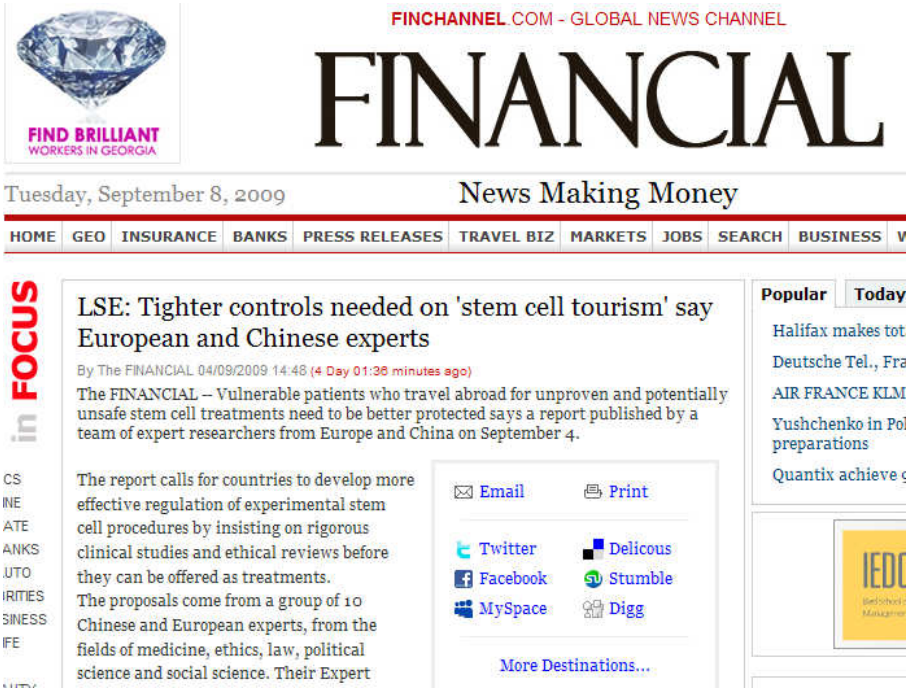
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LSE: Tighter controls needed on 'stem cell tourism' say European and Chinese experts
By The FINANCIAL 04/09/2009 14:48 (4 Day 01:36 minutes ago)
The FINANCIAL -- Vulnerable patients who travel abroad for unproven and potentially unsafe stem cell treatments need to be better protected says a report published by a team of expert researchers from Europe and China on September 4.
The report calls for countries to develop more effective regulation of experimental stem cell procedures by insisting on rigorous clinical studies and ethical reviews before they can be offered as treatments.
The proposals come from a group of 10 Chinese and European experts, from the fields of medicine, ethics, law, political science and social science. Their Expert
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PROGRAMME

Monday, 31 August 2009	
All day	Arrival of BIONET partners (Melia White House Hotel)
7.00 – 9.00	Informal Dinner for BIONET partners
Tuesday, 1 September 2009	
9.00 – 10.00	BIONET Steering Committee (Melia White House Hotel)
10.00 – 1.00	BIONET Expert Group (Melia White House Hotel)
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch
2.00 – 5.30	CURE (UK Medical Research Council's China UK Research Ethics) Workshop (Wellcome Trust) (Programme and details circulated separately)
6.00 – 7.00	Reception organized by CURE
All day	Arrival of non BIONET conference participants

Day 1: Wednesday, 2 September 2009	
9.00 – 9.30	Registration and Coffee
8.45 – 9.30	Press Conference
9.30 – 10.15	Conference Opening **Nikolas ROSE (BIONET)** **EU: Pēteris ZILGAVIS,** Head of Unit, Governance and Ethics, European Commission, Research Directorate–General, European Research Area : Science, Economy and Society **CN: "Understanding, Trust and Collaboration", HE Wei,** Acting Director of Bureau for Science and Education, Ministry of Health
SESSION ONE	**WHY COLLABORATE?** **MODERATOR: Ole DÖRING**
10.15 – 10.30	The rationale for the work of BIONET **Nikolas ROSE**
10.30 – 12.00	**STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLE** **Catherine ELLIOT,** Head Of Clinical Research Support and Ethics, Medical Research Council, United Kingdom **"Cooperation Research between Chinese and European scientists On Human Genome Resources", CHU Jiayou,** Professor, Institute of Medical Biology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences **"Sino-UK collaboration in stem cell research" Stephen MINGER,** Director, Stem Cell Biology Laboratory, Wolfson Centre for Age Related Diseases at King's College London **"Chinese-European cooperation in vaccine trials", Hans WOLF,** Director of Institute for Medical Microbiology and Hygiene, University of Regensburg, Honorary Professor of the Chinese

	Academy for Preventive Medicine, recipient of 2004 "Friendship Award" from Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao
12.00 – 1.00	**PANEL DEBATE & GENERAL DISCUSSION**
1.00 – 2.30	Lunch
SESSION TWO	**KEY CHALLENGES FOR COLLABORATION IN BIOMEDICINE: Lessons from BIONET** **MODERATOR: QIU Renzong**
2.30 – 3.10	**"Towards good governance of co-operation in biomedical research collaborations"** **Herbert GOTTWEIS**, Department of Political Science, University of Vienna
3.10 – 3.50	**"Key Ethical Challenges for Co-operation in Biomedical Research:** **International Guidelines vs. Native Culture"** **ZHAI Xiaomei**, Research Centre on Bioethics, Peking Union Medical College
3.50 – 4.10	Coffee and tea
4.10 – 4.50	**"Scientific challenges for cooperation in biomedicine"** **YANG Huanming**, Beijing Genomics Institute at Shenzhen
4.50– 5.30	**"Key scientific challenges for co-operation in biomedical research"** **LU Guangxiu**, Reproductive and Genetic Hospital CITIC-Xiangya
5.30 – 6.10	**"Key Translational Challenges in Bioethics"** **Ole DÖRING**, German Institute of Global and Area Studies
6.15 – 7.30	Reception and Buffet Supper (at the Wellcome Trust)

Day 2: Thursday, 3 September 2009	
SESSION THREE	**RECOMMENDATIONS ON BEST PRACTICE FOR COOPERATION IN THE BIO-MEDICAL SCIENCES:** **Key results from the BIONET project** **MODERATOR: Nikolas ROSE**
9.00 – 10.30	**BIONET Expert Group** General recommendations, **Genevra RICHARDSON** Special Protections of Vulnerable, **ZHAI Xiaomei** Clinical trials, biobanks, stem cells and ethics, **LU Guangxiu and Herbert GOTTWEIS** Potential and Limits of these Recommendations**, Christoph REHMAN-SUTTER** Building an ethical framework for collaborative research**, QIU Renzong**
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee and Tea
11.00 – 11.45	**Panel and General Discussion with members of BIONET EXPERT GROUP:** **Christoph REHMANN-SUTTER**, University of Basel **QIU Renzong**, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences **LU Guangxiu**, Central South University, Changsha

	ZHAI Xiaomei, Peking Union Medical College **Ole DÖRING**, German Institute of Global and Area studies **Herbert GOTTWEIS**, University of Vienna **Genevra RICHARDSON**, King's College London
11.45 – 12.45	**GENERAL DISCUSSION**
12.45 – 2.00	Lunch
SESSION FOUR	**RESPONSES TO THE BIONET RECOMMENDATIONS** **MODERATOR: ZHAI Xiaomei**
2.00 – 3.15	**EU: "Ethics of biomedical research - clinical trials: an EU prospective", Andre SYROTA,** Chairman and CEO of INSERM (The National Institute of Health and Medical Research), France, Member of EUROHORC European Association of the heads of research funding organisations **CN: "Sino-European cooperation in biological and bio-medical research ethics", QI Guoming,** Vice-Chair, Chinese Medical Association (CMA) **EU: "The BIONET Draft Recommendations - some remarks from outside", Jochen TAUPITZ,** Chair of Civil Law, University of Mannheim and member of the German Ethics Council **CN: "Comments on the best practice in ethical governance of biological and biomedical research collaboration between Chinese and European Scientists", HU Qing-li,** Director of the Independent Ethics Committee, Shanghai Clinical Research Center, Member of the Ethics Committee, Ministry of Health China and former Assistant Director-General of WHO
3.15 – 4.00	**GENERAL DISCUSSION**
4.00 – 4.20	Coffee and tea
4.20 – 5.45	CASE STUDIES ON STEM CELL AND GENOMIC RESEARCH **BIONET EXCHANGE STUDENTS** **Introduced and Chaired by Ayo WAHLBERG** "Psychosocial aspects of IVF patients - China- Denmark comparison", He Jing, CITIC-Xiangya Reproductive and Genetic Hospital "Narratives of life, value, hope an death - Disentangling the IVF embryo in China", Achim Roseman, University of Sussex "Donation of 'spare''embryos for stem cell research - Experiences and views of couples undergoing IVF at CITIC-Xiangya Hospital of Reproduction and Genetics", Anika Mitzkat "Government? Governance.- A case study of hematopoietic stem cell banks in Beijing", Zhang Yueyue, BIOS Centre, London School of Economics "Stem Cell Governance in China: from Bench to Bedside?" Chen Haidan, Zhejiang University "Imagined regulation: comparing human: embryonic stem cell research in China and the UK", Thomas Streitfellner, Life Science

	Governance Research Platform, University of Vienna "Scientist – Public Engagement: a start to understand the new partnerships in today's biomedical research", Su Yeyang, Beijing Genomics Institute
7.00 – 9.00	Conference Dinner (at the White House Melia Hotel)

Day 3: Friday, 4 September 2009	
SESSION FIVE	**CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION** **MODERATOR: Herbert GOTTWEIS**
9.00 – 10.00	**EU: "Challenges Of Implementation" Eero VUORIO,** Professor of Molecular Biology and Chancellor, University of Turku, Chair, National Advisory Board for Research Ethics, Chair of the European Research Council identification committee, Executive Manager of BBMRI **CN: "Biotechnology and life science research", YU Xiucheng,** Ministry of Health, P.R. China
10.00 – 10.45	**GENERAL DISCUSSION**
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee and Tea
11.15 – 12.45	**Panel and General Discussion: Challenges for implementation** **"Best Practice". LIU Wei,** Hunan Institute for Stem Cell Engineering, Central South University, Changsha **"Gender Perspective on the Implementation of the Recommendation", ZHU Wei,** Department of Social Sciences, Fudan University **Nick BUNNIN,** University of Oxford
12.45 – 1.15	Closing Ceremony
1.15 – 2.15	Closing Lunch

Friday, 4 September 2009: AFTERNOON	
BIONET PARTNERS ONLY	BIONET meetings at Melia White House Hotel
2.30 – 4.30	BIONET EXPERT GROUP – FINAL MEETING
4.30 – 5.30	BIONET STEERING COMMITTEE – FINAL MEETING

Saturday , 5 September 2009	
Morning	Free time
Afternoon	Cultural visit and end of project event for BIONET partners and students 1.30pm – meet at Melia White House Hotel 2.30 – 4.30 Trip to Kew Gardens 6.00 – River boat dinner cruise back to London city centre 9.00 – Drop off at Embankment in central London

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Nicholas BUNNIN is Director of the Philosophy Project, Institute for Chinese Studies, University of Oxford and Chairman of the British Committee, Philosophy Summer School in China. He holds an AB *summa cum laude* from Harvard College and a D. Phil. In *literae humaniores* (philosophy) from University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar at Corpus Christi College. He co-organised the 2004 Beijing International Conference on Bioethics and the 2005 Philosophy Summer School in China session on Bioethics and was a member of the International Advisory Committee for the 8th World Congress of Bioethics in Beijing. In addition to being a BIONET partner, he is a committee member for the Medical Research Council CURE project. He is co-author [with Jiyuan Yu] of *Dictionary of Western Philosophy: English and Chinese* and *The Blackwell Dictionary of Western Philosophy*. He co-edited [with E.P. Tsui-James] *The Blackwell Companion to Philosophy*; [with Chung-ying Cheng] *Contemporary Chinese Philosophy*; and [with Dachun Yang and Linyu Gu] *Lévinas: Chinese and Western Perspectives*. He has written on several topics in Chinese philosophy.

CHU Jiayou is Professor of the Institute of Medical Biology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Deputy Director of Yunnan Provincial Genetics Association. He is Associate Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Genetics and Genomics and the Journal of Hereditas. He conducted postdoctoral research at the Oncology Institute, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences after graduating from the Tongji Medical College with a Ph.D. degree. He has been a visiting professor in San Diego, USA and Toronto, Canada. He is currently engaged in research on human genome, and is the principal investigator on the establishment of gene bank for different Chinese nationalities and Chinese genomic diversity, which is part of the Chinese Human Genome Diversity Project. Immortalized cell lines from 58 groups from 42 Chinese ethnic minorities have been established, including 3,019 immortalized cell lines and 6,010 DNA samples, which are the largest immortalized cell banks in China at present.

CONG Yali is Professor of Medical Ethics at the Medical Ethics Program, Peking University Health Science Center (PUHSC). She is Secretary-General of the China Medical Ethics Association and Deputy Director of the China-U.S Center on Medical Professionalism, PUHSC. She is a member of the Core Group, Steering Committee and Expert Group of BIONET, a China-EU co-operation on the Ethical Governance of Research in the Life Sciences and Biomedicine. In 1985, she graduated from Beijing Normal University with a bachelor degree in biology after which she began studying medical ethics and obtained her PhD in 1995 from Peking University. In 2001, she spent one year as a senior visiting scholar to Chicago University in the United States.

Ole DOERING is Senior Research Fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA-IAS), Hamburg, Germany. Dr. Doering earned his Ph.D. from Bochum University in 2003. He has conducted his postdoctoral works in Bochum and Hamburg. Since 1995, he has initiated a series of cross-cultural research projects in the area of ethics and cultural studies, with a focus on bioethics and China in comparative perspectives. He is currently a senior research fellow at the GIGA-IAS. Dr. Doering is a co-initator of the BIONET and serves as formal member of the Steering Group, the Expert Group and the Core Management Group. He is teaching courses in philosophy, Chinese studies, governance topics and bioethics in several universities in Germany and in China. He has been engaged in consulting for policy makers and international pharma companies. Dr. Doering serves on the boards of several international journals

and academic associations; he is a frequently requested reviewer for scientific journals and project evaluations and for public communications. His extensive list of publications includes guest editorship of the special issue of *Contemporary Chinese Thought*, Number 2 / Winter 2007-8, featuring Bioethics; a monograph on "Understanding China's Bioethics" (in German, 2004), and the edited volume, "Advances in Chinese Medical Ethics. Chinese and International Perspectives", 2002.

Catherine ELLIOTT graduated from Edinburgh University Medical School in 1991. She trained as an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, including four years as a Clinical Lecturer at Imperial College, London studying the molecular mechanisms of preterm labour. She completed a Masters degree in Medical Law, with a dissertation on the new UK Human Tissue legislation. Since moving from clinical practice she initially worked in medical defence, dealing with the defence of medical negligence claims and also disciplinary proceedings and complaints against medical professionals. Catherine has been working with the Medical Research Council (UK) since 2005 and is Head of Clinical Research Support and Ethics. This post includes leading on regulatory and ethical aspects of research funded by the MRC and providing guidance to researchers on current legislative and good practice requirements. As part of this role Catherine coordinated the CURE project, reviewing governance and ethics review of medical research in the UK and in China. She has been closely involved with the development of the recent Embryology Bill in the UK, in particular the legal aspects of regulating research involving human admixed embryos and other human embryo research. She also wrote the MRC guidance on Research Involving Adults Lacking Capacity to Consent.

Herbert GOTTWEIS is Professor at the Department of Political Science, University of Vienna since 1998. He gained his Ph.D. from the University of Vienna (1984), Assistant and Lecturer at the Political Science Department, University of Salzburg (1985-1997), visiting research fellow at the Centre of European Studies, Harvard University (1989/90), Visiting research fellow at MIT's program in Science, Technology, and Society (1992/93), Assistant Professor at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University (1993-95), Visiting professor, Department of Social Studies, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (1997) and at The Australian School of Environmental Studies, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia (2004). His research focuses on comparative public policy. He has studied a number of policy fields, such as environmental policy, energy policy, genetic engineering policy, health and biomedicine policy, and the BSE crisis. Gottweis has a strong theoretical and methodological interest in policy research and links in his work theoretical oriented questions with his interest in addressing concrete problems of contemporary policy making and governance. He has directed many research projects. His research group at the political science department currently focuses on global biotechnology policy, participatory governance, narrative policy analysis, and health governance.

HE Wei is Deputy Director of Department for Science and Education, Ministry of Health, P.R. China. He is member of the 11th Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Political Consultative Conference (CPCC), Deputy Chairman of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee, Member of the Social and Legislative Committee of the National CPCC and Deputy to the Beijing Municipal People's Congress. He has been Professor, Deputy Department Director and Director of the School of Basic Medicine, China's Academy of Medical Science (CAMS) and Department of Immunology China Peking Union Medical College (PUMC) from August 1994 till today. He Wei graduated from Jiamusi Medical School majoring in medical science and was Resident physician in Heilongjiang Provincial Tuberculosis Prevention Hospital.

HU Qingli is a member of the UNESCO International Bioethic Committee; Senior Adviser and Emeritus Professor, Ruijin Hospital Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine; Director of the Advisery Group, Department of Ethics, Legal and Social Issues, Chinese National Human Genome Center at Shanghai; Director of the Independent Ethics Committee, Shanghai Clinical Research Center; Member of the Ethics Committee, Ministry of Health China; He is Former Assistant Director-General & Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organization.

LIU Wei, MD, PhD, is Professor and Clinician-in-chief at the Institute of Reproduction and Stem Cell Engineering at Central South University and the National Centre for Stem Cell Research and Engineering, Changsha, Hunan, P.R. China. Her majors are in Reproductive Medicine, Medical Genetics and Stem Cell Biology.

LU Guangxiu's, MD**,** research focuses on stem cells and reproductive medicine. She is one of the pioneers in the field of Assisted Reproductive Technologies. Many 'China Firsts' were in her lab, such as the first human frozen sperm bank, the first baby born with frozen semen and the first test tube baby born with donated embryo. She applied these reproductive techniques in the treatment of infertile couples and made her lab one of the leading reproductive and genetic medical centres in China. Moreover, she has made great progress in stem cell research. Prof. Lu is the director of National Centre for Stem Cell Research and Engineering. She is currently Professor and the Director of the Institute of Reproductive & Stem Cell Engineering of Central South University, and the president of CITIC-Xiangya Reproductive & Genetic Hospital.

Stephen MINGER is a Senior Lecturer in the Stem Cell Biology Laboratory in the Wolfson Centre for Age Related Diseases at King's College London. Dr Minger received his PhD in Pathology (Neurosciences) in 1992 from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. From 1992-1994, he was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of California, San Diego, where he first began to pursue research in neural stem cell biology. In 1995, Dr Minger was appointed an Assistant Professor in Neurology at The University of Kentucky Medical School. He moved his stem cell research programme to Guy's Hospital in 1996 and was appointed a Lecturer in Biomolecular Sciences at King's College London in 1998. Over the past 17 years, his research group has worked with a wide range of tissue-derived stem cell populations, as well as mouse and human embryonic stem (ES) cells. In 2002, together with Dr Susan Pickering and Professor Peter Braude, Dr Minger was awarded one of the first two licenses granted by the UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority for the derivation of human ES cells. His group subsequently generated the first human embryonic stem cell line in the UK and was one of the first groups to deposit this into the UK Stem Cell Bank. Dr Minger was also one of the first two groups in the UK to be granted a research license by the HFEA in 2008 to pursue Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) to generate "hybrid human embryos". Dr Minger is also one of the co-organisers, together with Professor Chris Mason of UCL, of the London Regenerative Medicine Network, a grass-roots, research-led organisation designed to stimulate clinical translation of cell- and gene-based therapies within London. He is also also the Stem Cell Expert and Member of the UK Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC) at the Department of Health and is a member of the Advisory Panel of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine.

QI Guoming is Vice-Chair of the Chinese Medical Association (CMA) and Chairman for the Medical Ethics Committee of the Ministry of Health, P.R. China. He has been Director-General of the Department of Medical Sciences, Technology and Education, Ministry of Health, and Professor and Vice President of Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine. Trained as an MD at the Department of Public health, Beijing Medical University and Peking Union Medical College, Qi Guoming has been a Visiting Scientist at Birmingham University, United Kingdom.

QIU Renzong is Emeritus Professor of Bioethics, Institute of Philosophy & Honorary Director, Centre for Applied Ethics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He is Professor & Chair of the Academic Committee at the Center for Bioethics, Peking Union Medical College; and Chair of the Ethics Committee of the National Human Genome Research Center (2002-). Prof. Qiu is a Member of the UNAIDS Reference Group on AIDS and Human Rights (2006-) and Vice-President of the Ethics Committee, the Ministry of Health (2007-).

Christoph REHMANN-SUTTER is a philosopher and bioethicist, Professor of Theory and Ethics in the Biosciences at the University of Lübeck in Germany. Academic training: Diploma in molecular biology from the Biocenter at University of Basel, second full training in philosophy and sociology, PhD 1995 at the Technical University of Darmstadt. 1997-1998 Research Fellow University of California Berkeley. Since 1996 Head of the Unit for Ethics in the Biosciences at the University of Basel in Switzerland. 2001-2009 Chair of the Swiss National Advisory Commission on Biomedical Ethics, elected by the Swiss Government. Since 2008 Visiting Professor at BIOS, London School of Economics (LSE). – Selected book publications: *Leben beschreiben* (1996), *Demokratische Risikopolitik* (1998), *Ethik und Gentherapie* (1995, 2nd ed. 2003), *Zwischen den Molekülen. Beiträge zur Philosophie der Genetik* (2005), *Bioethics in Cultural Contexts. Reflections on Methods and Finitude* (2006), *The Contingent Nature of Life* (2007), *Disclosure Dilemmas. Ethics of Genetic Prognosis after the 'Right to Know / Not to Know' debate* (2009).

Genevra RICHARDSON is Professor of Law at King's college London. She came to King's in 2005, having taught for many years at Queen Mary, University of London, where she was Dean of the Law Faculty from 1996 to 1999. She is a public lawyer but has become increasingly interested in law and medicine and, in particular, law and psychiatry. Her academic interests have led to her involvement in a number of related activities. In 1998 she was invited to chair the Expert Committee established by the Department of Health to advise ministers on the reform of mental health legislation. The Committee reported in 1999. She is currently a member of the Administrative Justice and Tribunals Council, the Steering Committee of the UK Stem Cell Bank and the Wellcome Trust's Medical Humanities Strategy Committee. She was a member of the Council of the Medical Research Council from 2001-8. In 2003 she became a trustee of the Nuffield Foundation and was elected to an honorary fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 2004.

Nikolas ROSE is Martin White Professor of Sociology, and the Director of the LSE's BIOS Centre for the Study of Bioscience, Biomedicine, Biotechnology and Society. He was originally trained as a biologist before switching to psychology and then to sociology. His books include *The Psychological Complex: Psychology, Politics and Society in England, 1869-1939* (Routledge, 1984), *Governing the Soul: The Shaping of the Private Self* (Routledge, 1989, Second Edition, Free Association Press, 1999), *Inventing Our Selves: Psychology, Power and Personhood* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), *Powers of Freedom: Reframing Political Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 1999) and *The Politics of Life Itself : Biomedicine, Power, and Subjectivity in the Twenty-First Century* (Princeton University Press, 2006). His most recent book, written with Peter Miller, is *Governing The Present* (Polity Press, 2008). His current research is on the social implications of the life sciences, with a focus on recent developments in the brain sciences and neurotechnologies. He is also working on changing conceptions of life associated with synthetic biology, and is a Principal Investigator for a research Centre for Synthetic Biology and Innovation, jointly between LSE and Imperial College, London. He is a member of numerous advisory groups including the Nuffield Council on Bioethics, and Chair of the European Neuroscience and Society Network.

Margaret SLEEBOOM-FAULKNER is Reader in Anthropology at the University of Sussex. She acquired her doctorate on academic nationalism in China and Japan from the Amsterdam School of Social Science Research (ASSR) at Amsterdam University in 2001. After her doctorate, her 5-year Socio-genetic Marginalization in Asia Programme (SMAP) was funded, and she continues working on it with five researchers at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden. In 2004, Margaret became a lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and she joined the Anthropology Department of the University of Sussex in 2006, where she has received funding for two projects on stem cell research and society. She has set up a comparative research project on 'Genomics in Asia', exploring the socio-political and economic consequences of the application of the new genetic technologies in China, India and Japan. Central here is a comparison of biobanking practices, genetic testing and population policy-making. This research has led to several edited works, such as *Genomics in Asia* (Kegan Paul, 2004) and *Biobanking in Asia* (Kegan Paul, 2009).

André SYROTA was appointed Director General of Inserm, the French national institute of health and medical research, in October 2007 becoming in March 2009 Chairman and CEO. He received a mandate from the Ministers of Higher Education and Research, and Health in November 2007 to reorganize and coordinate all biological and health sciences research programmes in France. To meet the challenge posed by government – the development of a viable scientific strategy for France that is more visible and reactive – Inserm has created eight thematic institutes covering broad topics in the major areas of biomedical research. An M.D., Ph.D., and Professor of Biophysics and Nuclear medicine at the University of Paris-Sud, he was head of the Service Hospitalier Frédéric Joliot (CEA, Orsay), one of the leading European nuclear medicine and medical imaging research institutes (1984-2007). He was Director of the Life Sciences Division of the French Atomic Energy Commission between 1993 and 2007. André Syrota is the author of more than 200 articles and 40 book chapters. He is a member of various boards at the Ministry of research and of national institutes. He is also a member of scientific assessment committees in the fields of biophysics and medical technology.

Jochen TAUPITZ, Professor Dr., studied law in Göttingen and Freiburg from 1973–1978. He received his doctoral degree from the University of Göttingen in the year 1981, passed the higher state examination in law in 1982 and became a university lecturer in Göttingen. In 1988 he received his habilitation from the University of Göttingen with a post-doctoral thesis on the professional codes of ethics. From 1988 to 1989, he was a univer¬sity ¬professor in Göttingen. Since 1990 he has held the position of a full professor for civil law, civil procedure law, private international law and comparative law at the University of Mannheim. From 1996 to 2002 he also performed secondary duties as a judge at the Higher District Court (Oberlandesgericht) of Karlsruhe. In addition, since October 1998, he has been the Managing Director of the Institute for German, European and International Medical Law, Public Health Law and Bioethics of the Universities of Heidelberg and Mannheim. He has rejected offers of a university chair at the universities of Kiel (1993), Bonn (1997) and Heidelberg (2003) and also declined the position of Director of the Swiss Institute for Comparative Law (2003). Among other appointments, he is a member of the German Ethics Council, member of the Board of Directors of the Central Ethics Committee at the German Medical Association, member of the Ethics Committee for the Medical Faculty of Heidelberg University, member of the Board of Directors of the German Association of Medical Ethics Committees, head of the Advisory Council on Questions of Principle of the German Association of Medical Ethics Committees, member of the Board of Directors of the Academy for Ethics in Medicine as well as member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

Eero VUORIO is Chancellor of the University of Turku, Finland and Professor of Molecular Biology. He has worked as a visiting scientist and professor at the University of Chicago, at the Swiss Federal Technical High School (ETH) in Zürich, and at the University of Texas in Houston. He has served six years in the Academy of Finland as a Board member and as the chair of the Research Council for Health. Since 2002, Chancellor Vuorio has served as the Chair of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) Council. He also has expert duties at the European Commission and European Science Foundation (ESF). In Finland, Chancellor Vuorio serves as the Chair of the National Board of Research Ethics. In this role, he participates in dissemination of information about good scientific practice and in development of guidelines for research ethics both locally, nationally and internationally.

Hans WOLF is Professor and Director of the Institute for Medical Microbiology and Hygiene of the University of Regensburg and Chairman of the Department. He has worked in the academic fields of virology, HIV, EBV, Vaccines, Nucleic acid detection systems and Biosensors. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Tropical Medicine Center of the University of Heidelberg, Germany and has been a member of the China Comprehensive International Program for Research on AIDS (CIPRA). In 2004 he was awarded the Friendship Award by the Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao for his contributions to the national Chinese programmes on cancer and the national Chinese programme on HIV/AIDS.

YANG Huanming of the Beijing Genomics Institute, Beijing /Shenzhen received his Ph.D. in Medical Genetics from University of Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1988. He returned to China in 1994 and co-founded Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) in 1999. Dr. Yang and his colleagues made significant contributions to the finishing sequence and HapMap of the human genome, as well as to the genomic research of rice, chicken, and many microorganisms. BGI published the first Asian's genome sequence by means of next-generation sequencing technology in 2008, and is one of the major contributors to the International 1000 Genomes Project. Dr. Yang is a former member of committees or consultant groups of genetics and bioethics for UNESCO,WHO, and UN High Commission for Human Rights. He is presently the official representative of PR China in the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC), UNESCO, and co-vice chairman of EAGLES (European Actions on Global Life Sciences). Dr. Yang and his team have received many awards and honors, including Research Leader of the Year by *Scientific American* in 2002, and Award in Biology by the *Third World Academy of Sciences*（TWAS）in 2006. He was elected as a foreign member of EMBO in 2006, and an Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2007, and a fellow of TWAS in 2008.

YU Xiucheng is Deputy Director-General, Department of Medical Science Technology and Education, Ministry of Health, P.R. China.

ZHAI Xiaomei, Ph.D, is Professor & Executive Director of the Centre for Bioethics, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences/Peking Union Medical College and Professor & Director, Department of Social Sciences and the Humanities, Peking Union Medical College. Her main research fields are bioethics and public health policy ethics. She graduated from the Department of Clinical Medicine, Changzhi Medical College and got her Ph.D. of Philosophy from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. She was Edmund Pellegrino Fellow at Georgetown University, USA (2009) and fellow at Harvard School of Public Health, USA (2001-2003) .She has been visiting Scholar at Lancaster University in UK, Ruhr University Bochum in Germany, Johns Hopkins University, USA, Erasmus Mundus Bioethics Programme in Europe and member of WHO Summer Academy on Medical Ethics in Switzerland during 2000-2007. She currently serves as

the Member of Ethics Committee of HUGO (Human Genome Organization), Member of the National Ethics committee of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Member of the Committee on Organ Transplantation of MOH. She is president of Committee on Bioethics, Chinese Society for Philosophy of Nature, Science & Technology, member of the Steering committee on the Curricula of the Humanities and Social Sciences of Ministry of Education, Member of the Expert Committee on Clinical Trials of AIDS Vaccines, China CDC; and the vice president of Ethics Committee, Chinese Society for Genetics. Zhai Xiaomei is Associate Editor-in-Chief of Chinese Medical Ethics, member of the Editorial Boards of journals British Medical Journal (Chinese version), Basic Medicine and Clinics, Medicine and Philosophy and Chinese Medical Biotechnologies.

ZHU Wei, PhD in Bioethics, is Associate Professor at the Center for Applied Ethics, Fudan University. Her academic interests and research fields include informed consent, genetics research and right to health. She is also a member of the Independent Ethics Committee, Shanghai Clinical Research Center, and member of the Ethical Review Board of the Shanghai Children's Hospital affiliated to Fudan University. From September 2002 to June 2003 she was research fellow at Harvard School of Public Health and received training on research ethics.

Pēteris ZILGALVIS is Head of the Governance and Ethics Unit, Directorate Science, Economy and Society at DG Research, European Commission, Brussels. Until 2005, he was deputy head of the Bioethics Department of the Council of Europe, in its Directorate General of Legal Affairs. In addition he has held various positions in the Latvian civil service (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Environment) and at the World Bank in Moscow and Rīga. Pēteris Zilgalvis studied political science (cum laude) at the University of California, Los Angeles. At the Law Center of the University of Southern California he obtained his JD (Doctor of Jurisprudence). He is a member of the California State Bar. He has published over 25 publications on bioethics, economic reform and environmental law in English and in Latvian.

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN CHINA AND EUROPE:

THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

BIONET FINAL CONFERENCE, 2-4 SEPTEMBER 2009, LONDON
HENRY WELLCOME AUDITORIUM, WELLCOME TRUST

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