



PRESS RELEASE

02/2004

Berlin, 16 February 2004

National Ethics Council to hold an expert hearing on polar body diagnosis

The National Ethics Council will be holding an expert hearing on polar body diagnosis in Berlin on 19 February 2004 as a part of its public plenary meeting.

Polar body diagnosis is a method of genetic diagnosis used in in vitro fertilization. Unlike preimplantation genetic diagnosis, polar body diagnosis is permitted under the German Embryo Protection Law because the examination is conducted on the oocyte at what is known as the pronuclear stage – that is, before an embryo within the meaning of the Law has come into being.

The papers to be presented and the ensuing discussion will focus on the conditions and potential of polar body diagnosis and on the experience gained so far with the use of this method.

The invited experts are:

Prof. Dr med. Klaus Diedrich, Head of the Gynaecology and Obstetrics Clinic, Universitätsklinikum Lübeck [Lübeck University Hospital];

Dr med. Ute Hehr, Gynaecological Endocrinology, Reproductive Medicine and Human Genetics Centre, Regensburg;

Prof. Dr med. Eberhard Schwinger, Head of the Human Genetics Institute, Universitätsklinikum Lübeck [Lübeck University Hospital];

Dr Michael Thaele, Chair, Bundesverband Reproduktionsmedizinischer Zentren [Federal Association of Reproductive Medicine Centres], Saarbrücken;

Prof. Dr med. Hans H. van der Ven, Head of the Department of Gynaecological Endocrinology and Reproductive Medicine at the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Centre, Universitätsklinikum Bonn [Bonn University Hospital]; and

Dr Volker Wetzel, AG für Fortpflanzungsmedizin [Working Group on Reproductive Medicine], Karlsruhe IVF Programme.

The detailed programme can be accessed at:
http://www.ethikrat.org/veranstaltungen/anhoerungen/ah_polkoerperdiagnostik.html.

The German National Ethics Council

The German National Ethics Council's task is to provide a forum for interdisciplinary discourse between the natural sciences, medicine, theology and philosophy, and the social and legal sciences.

It expresses views on ethical issues relating to new developments in the field of the life sciences and on their consequences for the individual and society.

Members

Prof. Dr Drs h. c. Spiros Simitis (Chair)
Prof. Dr Regine Kollek (Deputy Chair)
Prof. Dr Dr Eckhard Nagel (Deputy Chair)
Dr Hermann Barth
Prof. Dr Wolfgang van den Daele
Prof. Dr Horst Dreier
Prof. Dr Eve-Marie Engels
Rt Rev. Dr Gebhard Fürst
Prof. Dr Detlev Ganten
Prof. Dr Volker Gerhardt
Christiane Lohkamp
Prof. Dr Martin Lohse
Prof. Dr Therese Neuer-Miebach
Prof. Dr Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard
Prof. Dr Peter Propping
Heinz Putzhammer
Dr Peter Radtke
Prof. Dr Jens Reich
Prof. Dr Eberhard Schockenhoff
Prof. Dr Bettina Schöne-Seifert
Prof. Dr Dr h. c. Richard Schröder
Prof. Dr Jochen Taupitz
Dr Hans-Jochen Vogel, Former Federal Minister
Kristiane Weber-Hassemer, Former Permanent Secretary of Justice in the State of Hesse
Dr Christiane Woopen

Press officer

Ulrike Florian
Telephone: +49 (0)30/203 70-246
Fax: +49 (0)30/203 70-252
Email: florian@ethikrat.org

Secretariat

Jaegerstr. 22/23
D-10117 Berlin
Telephone: +49 (0)30/203 70-242
Fax: +49 (0)30/203 70-252
Email: kontakt@ethikrat.org
Website: www.ethikrat.org