



SIZE MATTERS 2009: Facing the ethical challenges of nanotechnology

Nanotechnology is penetrating many areas of our daily lives at incredible speed, opening up new horizons of expectation and hope. At the same time, it is raising questions which affect our individual self-conception and that of our society. Will nanotechnology change our future: coexistence, the work and consumer environment, social security systems? And to what extent are we prepared to accept such change?

Ethical questions are at the centre of four topic modules

- Naturalness - How is nanotechnology changing human existence?
- Reality and vision - Nano between fact and fiction?
- Integrity issues - High tech for everybody?
- Regulatory requirements - At what point should the state become involved in technological development?

Prominent experts will be discussing these issues from the perspective of the natural sciences, medicine, philosophy and theology and law.

-- Opening talks Dr. Christian Ege, secretary of state of the ministry of economics and science of the Saarland, Jochen Flackus, NanoBioNet chairman

-- Naturalness issues: Dr. Donald Bruce, managing director Edinethics Ltd., UK,

-- Reality and vision: Christine Peterson, Vice president Foresight Institute, Palo Alto, USA, Prof. Dr. Dieter Sturma, chair of philosophy at the University of Bonn, director of the Institute for science and ethics (IWE) Bonn, the German Reference Centre for ethics in the life sciences and of the Institute of science and ethics in neuroscience (Forschungszentrum Jülich)

-- Distributive justice issues: Prof. Dr. Dr. Dietmar von der Pfordten, chair in philosophy of law and social philosophy, Georg-August University, Göttingen, Prof. Dr. Armin Grunwald, Institute for Technology Assessment and System Analysis (ITAS), Karlsruhe

-- Regulation needs: Dr. habil. Dr. Tade Matthias Spranger, head of the Junior Research Group "Norm-Setting in the Modern Life Sciences" at the Institute for science and ethics, Bonn, Walter J. Schulz-Schaeffer, M.D., Prion and Dementia Research Unit, Georg-August University, Göttingen, Prof. Dr. Alfred Nordmann, Institute for Philosophy, Technical University Darmstadt, Office for Inter-disciplinary NanoTechnology Studies

URL for press release: <http://www.sizematters2009.de>

URL for press release: <http://www.cc-nanochem.de>

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