

**Symposium on the
The UK Transpecies Embryo Debate
ESRC Genomics Forum, University of Edinburgh – 27th Nov 2007**

Over the course of the last year science policy making in the UK has been concerned with far-reaching revisions to the governance and regulation of reproductive biology. Central to that debate has been the question of whether and how regulation should respond to requests to create and use transpecies human/animal embryos in research.

The purpose of this meeting is to reflect upon the science policy process behind that debate, and to consider the ways in which the transpecies embryo debate reflects wider cultural, scientific and regulatory changes at the boundaries of the human and the animal. This one day event will be a focussed opportunity for discussion with a series of invited presentations and comments. It will contribute to a published report to reflect findings from the event.

Themes for discussion:

The question of the human in transpecies reproductive innovation – the debate maps onto much broader ongoing transformations of the relations between humans and other species in contexts as wide ranging as genomics, pharming and animal-based experimentation and innovation.

Regulatory history and cultural change – the way in which the debate and its regulatory aspects have evolved over time; the history of the discussion since the mid 1980s and early 1990s.

Institutional species patterning of regulatory bodies – the relationship between HFEA and the APC; new arrangements for RATE; regulatory spaces between different agencies.

Policy making and consultation in the reproductive sciences – exploring the tensions and relationships between efforts to consult widely on sometimes highly technical questions; debates surrounding the responsiveness or otherwise of policy making to those constituencies consulted; routes of accountability, etc.

**To attend - register by emailing:
Genomics.Forum@ed.ac.uk**

PROGRAMME

10.30 arrival and coffee

10.45 Politics, consultation and expertise (Chair: Dr Steve Sturdy)

- **Dr Nik Brown** (University of York): *Beasting the embryo - the UK interspecies embryo debate*
- **Dr Sarah Parry** and **Dr Wendy Faulkner** (University of Edinburgh): *Talking about hybrid embryos for SCR*
Discussant/s - **Charles Lister** / **Helen Coath** (Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority)
- **Prof. Neva Haites** (University of Aberdeen): title TBC
Discussant - **Dr Richard Twine** (University of Lancaster)

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Cultural representation (Chair: Dr Steve Sturdy)

- **Dr Joan Haran** (University of Cardiff): *Mediating Governance: framing the hybrid embryo debate*
- **Dr Bonnie Green** (University of Leicester): *Chad and Dave: using fully-grown hybrids to discuss transpecies embryos*
Discussant – **Dr Pru Hobson-West** (University of Nottingham)

15.30 Tea

15.45 Round table discussion: Informing policy - **Dr Matthew Harvey** (Royal Society)

16.45 Concluding comments – Dr Steve Sturdy / Prof. Steve Yearley (Genomics Forum)

17.00 Close

ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum
The University of Edinburgh
St John's Land Holyrood Road
EH8 8AQ
Tel: 0131 651 4747

