

Dear Friends,

Bioethics is primarily a philosophical discipline that studies ethical controversies related to scientific advances in biomedicine. It provides a link between biology, medicine and pharmacology on the one hand, and a group of social sciences and humanities on the other (philosophy, sociology, law, political science...). Its goal is to scrutinize the ethical justifiability of different applications of biotechnologies and thus to inform medical and legal experts about what is potentially acceptable and what is not, as well as what qualifies, from a moral point of view, to be legalized and what does not.

Bioethics encompasses a wide variety of topics: the ethics of reproductive technologies, the ethics of various forms of cloning, the ethics of the use of neuro-pharmacology for cognitive and moral enhancement, experiments on humans, care for dying persons, fair distribution of biomedical resources, conflicts of interest in this distribution, the application of new technologies in medical treatment and morally responsible behavior of physicians – to mention just a few.

**Hence, we participate in creating the future of science. We reveal new perspectives on the use of biotechnologies by and on humans.**

We have established an international scientific institution: the **Center for the Study of Bioethics**. We have set up a team of the world leading experts in the field of bioethics and associated disciplines.

The Center for the Study of Bioethics is a unique research institution that encourages the engagement of prospective personnel from various scientific fields. It is tasked with rethinking the moral justification of the application of different biotechnologies and thus with providing medical personnel and lawyers with information about what is potentially permissible and what is not, and what from a moral point of view deserves to be legalized and what not.

**That is why we try to determine what is morally acceptable within the biotechnologically possible.**

Biotechnologies determine what is possible, jurists establish what to prescribe. For competent decision making about what is possible and what is to be prescribed, it is also necessary to know what is morally acceptable.

**The greatest challenge for the future might well be the application of new biotechnologies on healthy people with the aim of *enhancing* their normal functioning. This can even lead to a reconstruction of the existing human species.**

We aim at establishing morally responsible policies of creating better humans and better lives: traditional and new biotechnological opportunities directed at enhancing cognitive capacities of humans, but also their moral capacities; the use of stem cells for the treatment of so far incurable diseases and for life extension; help for the terminally ill; therapeutic and reproductive cloning; the use of new reproductive technologies for the benefit of mothers, fathers, and our already conceived but not yet born descendants ...

As an expanding and new scientific center that comprehensively deals with biomedical technologies, the Center for the Study of Bioethics strives for the humanization of biomedical achievements – the creation of conditions for research in the service of the individual and the community.

We have clear objectives and a firm belief that the Center for the Study of Bioethics will provide a significant contribution to science. We invite you to work together with us on this major enterprise: to establish a global scientific Center in Serbia that will take part in improving humans with improved lives.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vojin Rakic', written in a cursive style.

Professor Vojin Rakic, PhD

*Director of the Center for the Study of Bioethics*