

Abstract

Life Extension, Stem Cells and Public Attitudes

As new and emerging medical technologies might enable a notable increase in human life expectancy in the near future, it is important to consider the related bioethical questions. The presentation will provide an overview on these questions that shape our understanding of aging. An ongoing, interdisciplinary research project will then be introduced shortly. This project maps out public attitudes regarding the use of stem cells for health treatment and considerable life extension. The project idea was born during Rosa Rantanen's visit to the Faculty of Pharmacy at University of Belgrade earlier in 2014. A questionnaire is used to collect answers from respondents in Serbia. The data is then analyzed and used as a basis for bioethical discussion on the issue. This cooperation aims to collect data about public attitudes as well as to provide a bioethical analysis of these attitudes and their meaning for public discussion and decision-making.

Bio

Rosa Rantanen is a Doctoral Student at the University of Turku, Finland. She is currently finishing her PhD Thesis on the ethics on considerable life extension. The research is an overview on (bio)ethical issues related to extension of human life by means of new and emerging medical technologies. Rosa has published four peer-reviewed papers on the issue and has presented her work on life extension in numerous international conferences. She is also the General Secretary of the Finnish Unit of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics. Rosa is a Research Fellow at the Center for the Study of Bioethics where she resides since May 2014.