

Science, Religion and Ethics in 21st Century Biomedical Discoveries: Which Way is Forward?

presented by Fr. Kevin FitzGerald, S.J., Ph.D.

What is human? Can the promise of great scientific discoveries be reconciled with traditional notions of God and ethics? Are we capable of using biotechnology to better the human condition? How can science, religion and ethics be used to inform our decisions? What will an increasingly sophisticated understanding of genetics mean for healthcare, our understanding of free will?

Advances in 21st century biomedicine raise these and other fundamental questions. Our answers will profoundly shape national policy, science, healthcare, and our notions of right and wrong. Stem cell research, cloning, nanotechnology, chimera creation, genetic medicine and other initiatives give humans an unprecedented capacity to heal and influence our lives.

About the Presenter:

Kevin T. FitzGerald, S.J., Ph.D., is the Dr. David Lauler Chair in Catholic Health Care Ethics at Georgetown University. A Catholic priest he received a Ph.D. in molecular genetics and a Ph.D. in bioethics from Georgetown University. Fr. FitzGerald publishes on science and ethics in peer-reviewed journals, books, and in the popular press, and delivers presentations internationally. He is often interviewed by the news media on topics such as human genetic engineering, cloning, stem cell research, and the Human Genome Project.

Topic Titles

- Overview: Framework and Key Themes
- What is Human?
- Religion, Science, and Ethics
- Regenerative Medicine and Aging
- What are Stem Cells?
- Sources of Stem Cells
- Recent Stem Cell Research
- Ethics of Stem Cell Research
- Biology of Human Cloning Research
- Ethics of Human Cloning Research
- Animal Cloning Research
- Human/Animal Chimeras
- Biology of Human Genetic Engineering
- Ethics of Human Genetic Engineering
- Nanotechnology and Medicine
- Ethics of Nanomedicine
- Brain, Mind and Person
- Customized Drugs: Pharmacogenomics
- Genetic Testing and Screening Technology
- Ethics of Genetic Testing and Screening
- Genetic Discrimination
- Genetics and Race
- Large Population Studies and Databases
- Looking Ahead