

**Irish Council for Bioethics**  
*Comhairle Bitheitice na hÉireann*

**Minutes for Council Meeting**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2003**

- In the Chair:** Professor P. Fottrell
- Also present:** Professor P. Cunningham; Dr P. Flanagan; Mr D. Gleeson; Dr K. Kearon; Professor A. Scott; Professor P. Whittaker; Professor M. Lawler; Dr N. O'Brien; Professor F. O'Gara; Mr A. Sheikh; Professor S. Strain
- Apologies for absence:** Mr M. Dempsey; Dr D. Dooley; Dr M. Fitzgerald; Professor C. Kelleher; Professor P. Hannon; Professor T. McGleenan; Dr P. McKenna; Ms M. Mulvihill; Professor R. O'Regan; Professor C. Kelleher
- Also in attendance:** Dr S. O'Sullivan

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of the previous Council meeting were adopted.

**2. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising that are not already listed on the agenda.

**3. Report from the Scientific Director**

Dr. O'Sullivan informed the Council of the recent appointment of Alice Donoghue as Executive Assistant to the Irish Council for Bioethics. Dr. O'Sullivan informed Members of the Council that plans for the joint conference hosted by the Irish Council for Bioethics and the National Committee for Nutritional Sciences, scheduled to take place in February 2004, were well advanced. The Council was informed that the conference would address the various issues relating to ethics and eating.

**4. Report from the Chairperson of the GM Working Group**

Professor Whittaker referred to the last Council Meeting where he advised the Council of the Group's intention to produce a framework document for reporting on ethical matters pertaining to GM crops. He advised Council that the Group was progressing well and he envisaged that the report would be completed by the end of the year. The intention of the Working Group is to

produce a draft copy of the report for submission to the Council Members at the September 2003 meeting.

5. **Report from the Chairperson of the Biological Materials Working Group**

Professor Lawler advised Council that the work of the Biological Materials Working Group was progressing well. Professor Lawler was confident that a draft set of recommendations would be available from the group for discussion at the September 2003 Council Meeting, with a view to full completion of the report by the end of the year.

6. **Report from the Ethics Committee Working Group**

Dr. Kearon reported on the progress of the Group in the absence of Professor Kelleher, Chair of the Working Group. Dr. Kearon informed the Council that a thorough review of international best practice, with respect to Ethics Committees, had been completed by the Group. Dr. Kearon stated that the Working Group would now concern itself with drawing up a set of recommendations for the structure and operation of ethics committees in Ireland.

7. **Any Other Business**

Council Chairman, Professor Fottrell raised the subject of public consultation. It was suggested that the public be asked for submissions on the relevant working group topics by means of the Internet, newspaper advertisements and radio. The Council agreed that this would allow working groups the opportunity to take cognisance of the public's views and opinions on the issues on which the Council was to report.

8. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will take place at **10.30am on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September June 2003 at the Royal Irish Academy.**

**Dates for Council Meetings in 2004**

March 11<sup>th</sup> 2004, at 10.30am at the Royal Irish Academy

June 10<sup>th</sup> 2004, at 10.30am at the Royal Irish Academy

September 9<sup>th</sup> 2004, at 10.30am at the Royal Irish Academy

December 9<sup>th</sup> 2004, at 10.30am at the Royal Irish Academy

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