

# Irish Council for Bioethics

*Comhairle Bitheitice na hÉireann*

**Thursday 12th September 2002**

**In the Chair:** Professor P. Fottrell

**Also present:** Dr M. Fitzgerald; Dr P. Flanagan; Mr D. Gleeson; Professor C. Kelleher; Dr M. Lawler; Professor F. O'Gara; Professor R. O'Regan; Professor A. Scott; Mr A. Sheikh; Professor P. Whittaker;

**Apologies for absence:** Professor P. Hannon; Dr N. O'Brien; Ms M. Mulvihill; Professor S. Strain;

**Also in attendance:** Mr P. Dempsey; Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan

Professor P. Fottrell welcomed Dr Siobhan O'Sullivan, the newly appointed Scientific Director.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

2. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising that are not on the agenda

3. **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence that required discussion by the Council.

4. **Declaration of Interests**

It was decided that the draft declaration of interests be amended and resubmitted to the next Council meeting

5. **Establishment of Working Groups**

It was decided that 2 working groups be established to treat:

GM foods and GM Crops (Chairperson: Professor P. Whittaker)

Biological Collections (Chairperson: Dr M. Lawler)

Each Chairman will report back to the November Council Meeting with detailed terms or reference, membership, co-options etc

**6. Consulting and the Informing the public**

The Council learned that the new website http address will be [bioethics@ria.ie](mailto:bioethics@ria.ie).

It was agreed that the Council's minutes should be a record of the decisions made at each meeting and that they should be posted on the website.

It was agreed that the Scientific Director should develop a media policy in conjunction with the members of the Council.

It was decided that this item should be included on the next agenda.

**7. Any other business**

Mr A. Sheikh agreed to write up Rules of Procedure for the Council

**8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will take place at 10.30am on Thursday, 14 November 2002 in Academy House.