

# Irish Council for Bioethics

*Comhairle Bitheitice na hÉireann*

**Thursday 14th November 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; Professor S. Strain; Professor P. Hannon

**Apologies for absence:** Dr. T McGleenan; Dr N. O'Brien; Ms M. Mulvihill; Mr. M Dempsey; Dr. D Dooley; Prof. P Cunningham; Dr. K. Kearon; Dr. P McKenna

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

Professor P. Fottrell thanked Prof. Didier Sicard, Chairman of the French National Ethical Committee for his stimulating presentation on the modus operandi and experience of the French Committee.

**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. Director's Address**

Dr. O' Sullivan briefed Council members on the Fourth Global Summit of National Bioethics Commissions, which was held in Brasilia Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 2002. The WHO offered to establish a secretariat to co-ordinate the work of the National Committee's in between the two-yearly meetings. A communiqué

was issued from the meeting and Council agreed that the communiqué would be posted on the ICB website.

The Director informed the Council members that the date for the official launch of the ICB would be on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 2003 at 1.30pm.

**5. Declaration of Interests**

Council discussed the amended version of the Declaration of Interests prepared by Dr. McGleenan. It was agreed that some minor changes be made to document after which it would be circulated to and completed by all Council members.

**6. Rules of Procedure**

It was decided that the draft rules of procedure be amended and adopted by the ICB.

**7. Biological Collections Working Group Report**

Dr. Lawler gave an oral report on the proceedings of the first meeting (Oct 24<sup>th</sup> 2002) of the aforementioned working group. The working group agreed that biological material should be defined and that the group should look at best international practice in this area.

**8. Gentially Modified Organisms Working Group Report**

Prof. Whittaker informed the Council that a working group had been formed since the last ICB meeting and that the group would meet to establish terms of reference on the afternoon of Nov 14<sup>th</sup>.

**9. Proposal for the Establishment of a New Working Group**

Prof. Kelleher proposed the establishment of a new working group to examine the role and function of Ethics Committees in Ireland. The Council agreed to the formation of the group and Prof. Fottrell appointed Prof. C Kelleher as chairperson of the working group.

**10. Date of next meeting**

The Council will gather on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Academy House for the official launch of the ICB. The next Council meeting will take place at 10.30am on Thursday, 14th March 2003 in Academy House.