

Irish Council for Bioethics
Comhairle Bitheitice na hÉireann

Minutes of Council Meeting
Thursday 18th October 2007

- In the Chair:** Dr Dolores Dooley
- Present:** Professor John Vincent McLoughlin; Professor Andrew Green; Professor Linda Hogan; Dr Richard Hull; Dr Peter McKenna; Professor Cliona O'Farrelly; Professor David Smith.
- Apologies for absence:** Dr Alan Donnelly; Mr Stephen McMahon; Mr Asim Sheikh; Dr Darina O'Flanagan; Professor Richard O'Kennedy.
- Also present:** Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan; Ms Emily de Grae; Dr Stephanie Dyke.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted and signed.

2. Report from the Scientific Director

Dr O'Sullivan reported that the RTÉ radio series was currently being broadcast and had received positive feedback from around the country. Dr O'Sullivan added that the secretariat had received considerable interest in the information leaflets they had prepared to accompany the debates, and stated her intention of adding to this collection by producing further leaflets on topics addressed by the Council, such as biometrics.

Dr O'Sullivan reported that Mr Paul Meade had completed the first draft of his play and that they were working towards a staged reading in Farmleigh House during the first week of February 2008. Dr O'Sullivan expressed her gratitude towards the members of the Playwriting Competition Steering Committee for their generous contributions of time and expertise to the project.

Dr O'Sullivan informed the Council that on foot of the Council's 2006 policy conference *Ethical Dilemmas in a Pandemic*, the Department of Health and Children had established a steering committee to examine the ethical aspects of avian influenza pandemic planning, to which she had been appointed.

Ms de Grae reported that the ICB's policy conference on Environmental Ethics had taken place on Tuesday 9th October 2007 in the RDS and had provided a platform for a

valuable ethical debate. Dr O'Sullivan stated that the presentations made at the conference would soon be made available on the ICB website. In addition, it was noted that transcripts of the question and answer sessions following each presentation would be included in the conference proceedings.

Dr O'Sullivan reported that the President of the Greek bioethics Council had passed away and the Council wished to express their condolences.

3. Stem Cell Research Report

The first draft of the report on stem cell research was presented to Council and its structure, conclusions, and underlying rationales, were discussed.

4. Any Other Business

The Council were delighted to hear that the outstanding secondment issues relating to the Council secretariat's working conditions had been resolved. It was agreed that the incorporation of the Council could therefore proceed.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, December the 5th 2007, The Gresham Hotel at 3.30 pm.