

Call for Abstracts

Remaking the Future of Health?

In Search for Individual and Public Health in the Age of Genomics

International and Interdisciplinary Symposium, 29-30.6.2007, Mainz, GERMANY

Throughout the last decades, the rapid development of medical genomics brought about a novel understanding of health and disease often labelled as a paradigm shift in medical problem solving. However, medical genomics are not only of interest with regard to individual health but bear the potential to improve public health, too, because genome research has created a knowledge base that could be a venture point for innovative disease prevention. Evidently, the 'genome paradigm' and related predictive knowledge impact on the concept of medicine and significantly alter the style of medical decision making. Additionally, the medical genomics have started to significantly influence the ways in which we perceive and understand human life. The mutual interrelationship of biomedical innovation and the self-understanding of human beings have been historically shaped. Therefore, a socially acceptable, economically reasonable, and ethically justifiable integration of genetic knowledge into health care services must be grounded in a profound understanding of the fundamental social and ethical questions.

This symposium aims at clarifying the scientific, cultural and normative issues emerging at the intersection of genomics and public health. International experts from diverse backgrounds will contribute to one of the most compelling discussions in genetic medicine. A major goal of the symposium is to link perspectives and approaches from social science, humanities to life sciences and biomedicine to promote the culture of interdisciplinary discourse. Topics include:

- Historical and ethical aspects of genetics determinism
- History of genetics and molecular medicine
- Epistemological aspects of genomics
- Risk discourse and ethical dimensions of individualized medicine
- Cultural aspects of human genome research
- Concepts of health and disease
- History, concepts and perspectives of public health genetics
- Genetic information and autonomy
- Genetics and justice

Abstracts for papers within the scope of the symposium are invited until **1st April 2007** (max. 250 words). All abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Programme Committee. Accepted abstracts will be published in the Final Programme & Book of Abstracts to be distributed to all conference participants. Registration fees will be waived for presenters of accepted abstracts. Please note that the Conference Organisers cannot pay travel and accommodation expenses.

The conference is organised by the Institute for History, Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine of the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, and is kindly supported by the German National Genome Research Network, NGFN2 as project 'Public Health Genetics' (German Ministry of Science and Education, BMBF 01GR0467).

Deadline for submission: 1st April 2007

Email abstract submissions to: ilkilic@uni-mainz.de (Ilhan Ilkilic, MD Ph.D)

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