

8th EMBO/EMBL Joint Conference on Science and Society
The future of our species – Evolution, disease and sustainable development
2-3 November 2007, EMBL Heidelberg, Germany

Programme

Friday, 2 November

- 8:45-9:00 Welcome addresses:
Iain Mattaj, Director General, EMBL
Andrew Moore, Chair, Conference Organising Committee, and Science and Society Programme Manager, European Molecular Biology Organization, Heidelberg, Germany
- 9:00 Session I: **Emerging, re-emerging and persistent diseases**
Introduction: **Hans-Georg Kräusslich** (session chair), Director, Dept. of Virology, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- 09:00-09:40 **“Emerging viral threats to human health in the last 25 years”**

Albert Osterhaus, Head, Dept. of Virology, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 09:40-10:20 **“The public health implications of emerging, re-emerging and persistent diseases for the future of the human species”**

Peter Fonkwo, Freelance International Consultant in Public Health – Community Health and Health Management, Cameroon
- 10:20-10:50 Coffee break
- 10:50-12:30 Panel discussion:
Riccardo Cortese, CEO, Okairòs, Basel, Switzerland
Julian Davies, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Microbiology & Immunology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
Innocent Nzeyimana, Sous-Bureau OMS Abéché, Bureau de la Représentation de l’OMS, Tchad
Gérard Krause, Head, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Robert-Koch Institute, Berlin, Germany
- 12:30-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00** Session II: **Global sustainability and biology**
Introduction: **Stefan Bringezu** (session chair), Director, Material Flows and Resource Management, Wuppertal Institute, Germany
- Talks:
- 14:00-14:40 **“Climate change: the global export and import of changes to natural biological systems”**

Chris Thomas, Professor, Conservation Biology, Dept. of Biology, University of York, UK
- 14:40-15:20 **“How sustainable are we?”**

Donald Bruce, Ethical Consultant, Edinethics Ltd, Edinburgh, UK
- 15:20-15:50 Coffee break
- 15:50-17:30 Panel discussion:

Thomas Gale Moore, Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, USA
Ilkka Hanski, Professor, Metapopulation Research Group, Dept. of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland
Thomas Henningsen, Greenpeace, Germany
Ralf Kindervater, Chief Executive Officer, BIOPRO Baden-Württemberg, Germany

17:30-18:15 Award ceremony: EMBO Award for Communication in the Life Sciences 2007

18:15-18:45 Aperitif

19:00-20:30 Conference dinner

20:45-21:30 **Special evening talk:**
“The future of humans in space”

Marc Heppener, Head of the International Space Station's Utilisation and Microgravity Promotion Division, European Space Agency, Noordwijk, The Netherlands

Saturday, 3 November

9:00 Session III: Treatment and enhancement

Introduction: **Claudio Bordignon** (session chair), Professor of Hematology, Vita Salute San Raffaele Institute, Milan, and President & CEO MolMed S.p.A., Milan, Italy

Talks:

9:00-9:40 **“Genetic modification of stem cells for the therapy of inherited diseases”**

Fulvio Mavilio, Professor of Molecular Biology, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, and Scientific Institute H. San Raffaele, Milan, Italy

9:40-10:20 **“Enhancement and evolution: the future of humankind?”**

Sara Chan, Research Fellow, Centre for Social Ethics and Policy, School of Law, University of Manchester, UK

10:20-10:50 Coffee break

10:50-12:30 Panel discussion:

Eve-Marie Engels, Professor, Dept. of Ethics in Biology, University of Tübingen, Germany
Jan Staman, Director, Rathenau Institute, Den Haag, The Netherlands

James Hughes, Executive Director, Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies, Trinity College, Hartford, USA

Elaine Dzierzak, Professor, Dept. of Cell Biology, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00 Session IV: Human evolution: once were apes...

Introduction: **Volker Mosbrugger** (session chair), Director, Seckenberg Research Institute and Museum, Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Talks:

14:00-14:40 **“Human origins: the molecular perspective”**

Mark Stoneking, Professor, Dept. of Evolutionary Genetics, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany

- 14:40-15:20 **“The future of human evolution: a perspective”**

 Ian Pearson, Futurologist, British Telecom Group Chief Technology Office, Ipswich, UK
- 15:20-15:50 Coffee break
- 15:50-17:30 Panel discussion:
Jay T. Stock, Lecturer in Human Evolution and Development, Dept. of Biological Anthropology, University of Cambridge, UK
Frans Willekens, Director, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, The Netherlands
Jürgen Klüver, Information Technologies and Educational Processes, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
Jerome H. Barkow, Professor, Dept. of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada
- 17:30- 17:40 Closing remarks:
Andrew Moore, Chair, Conference Organising Committee, and Science and Society Programme Manager, European Molecular Biology Organization, Heidelberg, Germany