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:
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


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

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