

**Ad Hoc Committee on an International Convention against  
the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings (25 February to 1 March 2002)**

*Exchange of information and technical assessments provided by  
experts on genetics and bioethics*

Speaking schedule for 25 February 2002

*Morning session, 10:00 a.m.\* to 1:00 p.m.:*

**Introductory remarks, Prof. Arthur Caplan**

**Cloning of mammals: basic scientific facts and biotechnological framework,  
Prof. Cesar Nombela**

Description of the basic science of cloning including the phenomena of twinning, embryo cloning and adult nuclear transfer cloning. The presentation will provide a context for human cloning in terms of work that scientists have done in genetic engineering of plants and animals, referring to the experience to date with cloning in different species and will consider the relationship of cloning to other issues such as mapping the genome, genetic engineering, stem cell research and genetic testing.

**Human reproductive cloning: teachings from assisted reproductive  
technology, Dr. Fernando Zegers-Hochschild**

Presentation on reproductive technology and infertility treatment, with a focus on how human cloning relates to other techniques for creating human beings, in terms of the biology involved, risks and what is known or not known. The presentation will discuss the demand for infertility services and consider what the demand for human cloning might be for and why. A description will also be provided of the current state of biology and clinical practice in creating human embryos.

*Lunch, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*Afternoon session, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.:*

**The rights and wrongs of human cloning, Prof. Arthur Caplan**

Basic description of the interface between the science of cloning and the ethical and social questions raised, including such key questions as what constitutes cloning, what is the moral status of an embryo, is there a right to reproduce, can non-therapeutic research ever ethically be conducted on

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\* Following the opening of the Ad Hoc Committee, the election of its officers, adoption of the agenda and approval of the workplan.

a human embryo or human clone, who should consent to human cloning if it is to be done, are existing regulations governing human experimentation relevant to human cloning, and who owns and controls the technology involved? The presentation will offer comments on some current policy responses to human cloning in different nations and from different professional and consumer groups.

**Reproductive Cloning: A Survey of Ethical Issues and Concerns, Prof. Leonardo De Castro**

Presentation covering the various considerations that govern the thinking about the right to reproduce or create human beings or human embryos in law, philosophy and theology around the world. What sorts of considerations should be brought to bear in thinking about human cloning as a form of human experimentation given the uncertainties that surround the safety of cloning? What existing forms of regulation and law govern any attempt to clone humans? And what frameworks do we have available for thinking about the moral status of human reproduction including the status of cloned human embryos, parthenogenesis, animal-human clone constructs, transformed adult stem cells etc?

**Reproductive Cloning – A Human Rights Framework, Dr. Carmel Shalev**

Presentation on the broader social and ethical significance of thinking about cloning. How does cloning relate to our moral views about reproduction, the role of sexual reproduction and the family in human life, the priority which we should give to allowing or encouraging research on human cloning relative to other demands to address important human needs and medical requirements? What equity issues bear on the issue of human cloning? And what sorts of questions need to be addressed, if any, in terms of commodification and commercialization of reproduction and the moral status of human beings if human cloning is not prohibited? The presentation will offer a human rights framework for debating the topic, and will refer to several relevant international human rights instruments.

*Concluding remarks*