

Ethical Principles

Roche Charter on Genetics

Based on

- the importance of genetic predisposition and susceptibility for the pathogenesis of common, complex disorders,
- the necessity and promise of using genetic information for the discovery and delivery of new and improved diagnostics and therapeutics, and
- the legitimate interest of society in applying the aggregate results of genetic studies to the improvement of the human condition,

Roche recognizes that genetic research is an essential and indispensable element in the quest to improve healthcare, provided the genetic research is implemented based on a number of scientific, ethical, societal, and legal principles, including, but not limited to, the following **ethical principles**:

- The pursuit of research according to the highest standards of scientific rigour and excellence;
- the right of every individual to self-determination, privacy, and confidentiality regarding the procurement and use of genetic information with regard to both research and personal health care;
- the obligation to abide by national and international research standards and applicable laws, and the need to respect specific social, moral, ethical, religious, and other values affecting the procurement and use of genetic information;
- the responsibility to prevent the misuse of genetic information obtained in the course of research activities towards discrimination or exploitation of individuals and groups, as well as to oppose any such misuse as a matter of principle;
- the mandate not to pursue the deliberate creation of genetically identical human beings;
- the communication of research results to the scientific community in a timely fashion and the support of general educational activities in the area of genetics;
- the concept of providing appropriately considered benefits to communities contributing genetic material for research purposes.



Roche is fully committed to integrate the above mentioned ethical principles into a programme of scientifically and socially responsible, accountable, and transparent use of genetic information for the development of new diagnostics and therapeutics.

The Roche Science and Ethics Advisory Group (SEAG), a body of external experts from the fields of ethics, law, sociology, and members of the general public advises Roche on a regular basis on issues associated with innovative developments in biomedicine, with particular emphasis on their ethical impact, including genetics. The SEAG has reviewed the Roche Charter on Genetics.

This up-dated Charter on Genetics was proposed by the Corporate Sustainability Committee and was adopted by the Corporate Executive Committee on May 12, 2009 and entered into force the same day. This position paper was reviewed in April 2012.