

Ethical Principles

Science and Ethics Advisory Group (SEAG)

Roche Genetics has assembled an external expert panel, the Science and Ethics Advisory Group (SEAG).

Roche Genetics has assembled a Science and Ethics Advisory Group (SEAG) composed of external experts in the fields of genetics, bioethics, law, and sociology; in addition, lay members of the community (e.g., patient advocacy group representatives) are also represented in the SEAG.

The SEAG has three principal responsibilities:

- to advise and counsel Roche Genetics and F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd on a broad range of issues covered in the Roche Charter on Genetics and Roche Sample Repository (RSR) policies documents;
- to provide advice and counsel regarding scientific and ethical aspects pertaining to the implementation and use of the Roche Genetics Sample Repository, including reviewing research protocols proposing to use RSR materials, and rendering recommendations;
- to review periodically and – if deemed appropriate – to recommend revisions to the Charter statements and RSR policies.

Members of the SEAG are appointed by the Roche Genetics Executive Committee. The membership of the SEAG is restricted to no more than seven members at any given time, and to a renewable 2-year term. The SEAG meets once per year for a briefing about Roche Genetics activities; consultation on specific issues occurs on an ad-hoc basis without the requirement for formal meetings of all members of the SEAG.

The goal in assembling the SEAG is to provide Roche Genetics with a roster of internationally recognised and respected experts for advice and guidance on a broad range of questions and issues that relate to the pursuit of genetic research and the implementation of results thus obtained. It also provides a forum for ongoing dialogue and debate on these topics and renders expert review of the maxims, objectives, and procedures used for and by Roche Genetics.

Members

Experts appointed to the group are:

Dieter Birnbacher

Prof., Permanent Committee on Organ Transplantation; National Committee on Somatic Gene Therapy; National Ethics Committee; all German Federal Medical Council

James Childress

Prof. of Religious Studies and Medical Education, University of Virginia, Charlottesville; Member, President's National Bioethics Advisory Commission; Member, Institute of Medicine, NAS

Mark Frankel

Director, Scientific Freedom, Responsibility and Law Program, AAAS, Washington; Member BoD, National Patient Safety Federation

Bartha Knoppers

Prof. of Law, University of Montreal; Head, HUGO Committee on Bioethics; Member, WHO Advisory Committee on Human Genetics

Ysbrand Poortman

Vice President, International Genetic Alliance of Patient Organisations (IGA, Washington); Founder and Vice President, World Alliance of Organizations for the Prevention of Birth Defects (WAOPBD, New York); Member, European Genetic Alliances' Network (EGAN); Member, Board of European Platform for Patients Organizations, Science and Industry (EPPOSI); Dutch Genetic Alliance (VSOP)

Godfrey Tangwa

Prof. and Chair, Department of Philosophy, University of Yaoundé, Cameroon; Member, WHO-UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Advisory Committee

Myrl Weinberg
President, National Health Council, Washington, DC

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