



WFSJ Office <info@wfsj.org>

The Sixth WHO-WFSJ webinar for science journalists

World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) <bulletin@wfsj.org>
Répondre à : "World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ)" <bulletin@wfsj.org>
À : info@wfsj.org

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The Sixth WHO-WFSJ webinar for science journalists

TITLE: Human genome editing as a public health tool: Safety, effectiveness and ethics

The latest installment in this webinar series will consider the regulatory response to new and more powerful biochemical tools for genetic manipulation, including the well-known innovation of CRISPR-Cas 9 (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats; Cas9 nuclease). Although there is a great deal of enthusiasm for applying this technology in the human genome to treat or prevent disease, such use also raises ethical concerns that can only be addressed by robust and well-defined oversight.

As a step toward establishing this oversight, the WHO established a global, multidisciplinary expert advisory committee to consider the scientific, ethical, social, and legal implications of editing the human genome. The committee's report, [Human Genome Editing: Recommendations](#), which was released this past summer, outlines a series of recommendation in nine distinct areas that deal with all aspects of this complex topic.

Now you will have an opportunity join some of these committee members in a virtual room where

you can see and hear them respond to questions raised by their report. You will also be helping the WHO adapt its communications and knowledge transfer practices to meet the challenges and needs of science journalism.

Recordings of this seminar will be accessible to WFSJ members. If you are interested and available to attend, please register below.

TIME: Wednesday 27 October, 2021, 15:30 - 17:00 CEST (Geneva time), 09:30-11:00 EDT

SPEAKERS:



John Reeder

Director of the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases

— strengthening the health research capacity of least-developed countries

He has worked with several international research organizations, where he has regularly focused on improving the response to infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV.



Françoise Baylis

University Research Professor, Dalhousie University, Canada

— the intersection of applied ethics, health policy, and practice

Her work looks beyond the current limits of mainstream bioethics to develop new approaches to public policy changes, such as the regulation of technologies that genetically modify human embryos and the germline. She is the author of *Altered Inheritance: CRISPR and the Ethics of Human Genome Editing*.



Robin Lovell-Badge

Senior Group Leader, Laboratory of Stem Cell Biology and Developmental Genetics,
Francis Crick Institute, United Kingdom

— public engagement and policy around stem cells, genetics, human embryo, and animal research

His research reveals the details of how cells and complex organisms normally develop, which is crucial to understanding human health, disease, and prospects for future therapies.



Anne Wangari Thairu-Muigai

Professor of Genetics, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya

— characterization, use, inventory, and monitoring of the indigenous animal genetic resources

Her work applies genetics to challenges facing contemporary agriculture, such as helping rural communities in Kenya adapt to the effects climate change will have on domesticated

goats and sheep and in the use of genomics for conservation of endangered African plants and animals.

Register



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