



S.I.N. REPORTING REQUEST RETURN

This response was submitted to the consultation held by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on Emerging biotechnologies between April 2011 and June 2011. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

**REPORTING TASK: NUFFIELD COUNCIL ON BIOETHICS EMERGING BIOTECHNOLOGIES CONSULTATION
SECTOR: BIOETHICS
DEADLINE FOR RETURN: 15 JUNE 2011**

**COUNTRY / GEOGRAPHIC REGION: CHINA
RETURNING POST: SHANGHAI**

1 How would you define an 'emerging technology' and an 'emerging biotechnology'? How have these terms been used by others?

'An emerging technology' refers to groundbreaking technologies or technologies with an application prospect: an 'emerging biotechnology' refers to emerging technologies with an application in healthcare, manufacturing and daily life such as stem cell technologies and gene therapy.

2 Do you think that there are features that are essential or common to emerging biotechnologies? (If so, please indicate what you think these are.)

All the emerging biotechnologies share one of the following features: using traditional way of thinking and methodology to tackle unresolved issues; using new way of thinking and methodology to tackle unresolved issues; groundbreaking discoveries.

3 What currently emerging biotechnologies do you consider have the most important implications ethically, socially and legally?

Technological advances should be accompanied by a complete set of law and regulations.

4 Are there examples where social, cultural and geographical factors have influenced the development of emerging biotechnologies (either in the past or currently)?

Cannot simply say that social traditions influence the development of technologies; science developments and social evolution supplement each other. Any bias towards either end of the balance is wrong.

5 Are there examples where social, cultural and geographical factors have influenced public acceptance or rejection of emerging biotechnologies?

View as above.



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6 Are there examples where internationalisation or globalisation of research, markets and regulation have influenced the development of emerging biotechnologies?

Yes, globalisation speeds up scientific development.

7 How have political traditions (such as liberal democracy) and political conditions (e.g. war) influenced the emergence of biotechnologies?

Social environment, cultures, economic climate and scientific environment influence each other. The leading three factors offer a basis for science development and vice versa.

8 Are there ethical or policy issues that are common to most or many emerging biotechnologies? Are there ethical or policy issues that are specific to emerging biotechnologies? Which of these, if any, are the most important?

There is a conventional thinking in China that each part of your body is given by the parents and therefore any damage to your own body is thought to be filially disobedient. Being affected by this thinking, most Chinese people are against organ donation, which in some way hinders the development of organ transplantation in China.

9 Do you think that some social and ethical themes are commonly overlooked in discussions about emerging biotechnologies? If so, what are they?

Not 'overlooked', just not enough attention is attached to these issues.

10 What evidence is there that ethical, social and policy issues have affected decisions in (i) setting research priorities, (ii) setting priorities for technological development, and (iii) deploying emerging biotechnologies, in either the public or private sector?

For example the ethical and moral issues around human cloning technologies have yet to be discussed and resolved, the corresponding law and regulations are not robust enough, as a result, most countries keep a conservative attitude towards it.

11 What ethical principles should be taken into account when considering emerging biotechnologies? Are any of these specific to emerging biotechnologies? Which are the most important?

Traditions, philosophy and values vary in different countries. This results in different levels of acceptance of emerging biotechnologies. These differences should be taken into account when considering emerging biotechnologies.



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12 Who should bear responsibility for decision making at each stage of the development of an emerging biotechnology? Is there a clear chain of accountability if a risk of adverse effects is realised?

Specialised management committees should be set up to be responsible for such issues with a clear and streamlined accountability system.

13 What roles have 'risk' and 'precaution' played in policy decisions concerning emerging biotechnologies?

The government should enhance its administration and provide reasonable guidance.

14 To what extent is it possible or desirable to regulate emerging biotechnologies via a single framework as opposed to individually or in small clusters?

N/A

15 What role should public opinion play in the development of policy around emerging biotechnologies?

Public opinion plays a significant role in ensuring that the policy suits better the situation, the public and the market. People feel safer and more secured living in such a responsible and engaging policy making environment.

16 What public engagement activities are, or are not, particularly valuable with respect to emerging biotechnologies? How should we evaluate public engagement activities?

In China, public engagement is not enough and there is still not a very clear mechanism for public engagement. In my view, for emerging biotechnologies, it is important to make the public informed through science popularisation publications, websites, advertisements; public debate, training, public notice are all valuable activities.

17 Is there something unique about emerging biotechnologies, relative to other complex areas of government policy making, that requires special kinds of public engagement outside the normal democratic channels?

N/A