



Special Issue: Symposium “Science, Ethics and Arts”

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Symposium “Science, Ethics and Arts”: The day after

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This special issue of JOSHA is dedicated to the coverage of the second Symposium “Science, Ethics and Arts” that took place on Friday, October 14th at the Haus zur Lieben Hand, Freiburg. This event was organized by the [International Master Program in Biomedical Sciences](#) (IMBS), which is a collaboration between the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the Alberts-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany.

The morning session started smoothly with the Boccherini Quartet playing relaxing, however, inspiring classical music. After their performance, the attendees were in a relaxing and open-minded mood to start with the scientific and ethical discussing. The first talk was granted to Prof. Dr. Eva Winkler from the NCT, Heidelberg. She discussed the ethical aspects of genome sequencing. Then, Prof. Dr. Christoph Borner from the University of Freiburg presented his arguments about the scientific, social and ethical aspects of prolonging human life and its implications. As a closure for this first session, Dr. Philippe Merz, Philosopher from the University of Freiburg, discussed philosophical argumentation and medical ethics. All three speakers encouraged a heated-up and enriching discussion among scientists and philosophers on these topics.

After a coffee break, the second session started with Felicitas Holzer (M.Sc. from Freiburg, MPhil from Cambridge, and currently PhD student in Argentina) who presented her research on the social value of knowledge in medical research. Continuing with this topic, Dr. Federico Vasen, Philosopher from Argentina currently at UNAM Mexico, compared the regulatory approaches to regenerative medicine in Argentina, Brasil, EU, USA, and Mexico.

During the lunch break, the attendees could appreciate the exceptional pieces of art exhibited by the photographer [Anna Boksa](#), the painters [Giulia Musella](#) and [John Tun Sein](#), and the sculptor [Ludwig Köhler](#).

The afternoon session started with Prof. Drs. em. Roland Mertelsmann and Prof. Dr. med. Felicia Rosenthal presenting the BioThera Foundation award winners in areas as varied as basic research, machine learning, medicine, and arts. Afterward, the first lecture was masterly presented by Prof. em. Dr. Günter Hager, law specialist from Freiburg University, who gave a speech on the conservation of biodiversity as ecology against economy. Following

the session, Dr. Ignacio Mastroleo, from FLACSO, Argentina, argued about the ethics of clinical innovation leaving room for discussion with the audience. Prof. Dr. Christof von Kalle from the NCT, Heidelberg, highlighted the relevant aspects and implications of understanding cancer by Whole genome studies. Finally, Prof. Drs. em. Roland Mertelsmann, a specialist in onco-hematology from the Universitäts Klinikum, Freiburg, enlightened the audience with the first and latest discoveries on cancer research in this talk “The 1971 War on Cancer Revisited”. As a closure of this fantastic symposium, all the attendees enjoyed some wonderful wine and pretzels accompanied by Prof. Borner’s masterpieces on the piano.

The audience as varied as basic science researchers, medical doctors, philosophers, master students and artists. The Symposium was supported by [BioThera Foundation](#), the [International Academy of Science, Humanities, and Arts](#) (IASHA), International Academy of Biomedical Sciences (iABMS), [Journal of Science, Humanities, and Arts](#), the [Spemann Graduate School of Biology and Medicine](#) (SGBM), the [Thales Akademie](#), and Musella Foundation.

In this issue, you will find the presentations of all the invited speakers as well as a coverage of the art exhibition that took place on the same day. We hope you will enjoy reading all that we have included in this special edition and we are looking forward to meeting you in the next year’s Symposium.

Table of Contents Volume 3 Issue 6

Christof von Kalle, [Understanding Cancer by Whole Genome Studies](#)

Christoph Borner, [The Scientific, Social and Ethical Aspects of Prolonging Human Life](#)

Roland Mertelsmann, [The 1971 War on Cancer Revisited](#)

Philippe Merz, [Bioethics and Philosophical Argumentation](#)

Guenter Hager, [Conservation of biodiversity – ecology against economy](#)

Stephan Seiler, [Arts at the Symposium "Science, Ethics and Arts"](#)

Felicita Holzer, [The Social Value of Knowledge in Medical Research](#)

Ignacio Mastroleo, [Ethics of clinical innovation](#)

Federico Vasen, [Pathways in the regulation of clinical stem cell research: harmonization, “double discourse” and alter-standardization](#)