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EUROCANCERCOMS: ETHICAL ISSUES



PhD program in

FOUNDATIONS OF THE LIFE SCIENCES AND THEIR ETHICAL CONSEQUENCES
(FOLSATEC)

European School of Molecular Medicine (SEMM) at the Campus IFOM–IEO
University of Milano

FOLSATEC wants

to realize an international class of highly skilled scholars having **both the scientific and the philosophical competences** to successfully face the following three topics:

1.
the philosophical foundations of the life sciences
2.
the ethical analysis of the consequences of the biomedical results
3.
the relations between biomedicine and society

TEACHING PLAN

	I year	II year	III year	IV year
Morning	<i>about 250 hours of lectures</i>	<i>about 250 hours of lectures</i>		
Afternoon	laboratory	laboratory	laboratory	

COURSES

General philosophy of science
Logic
Rhetoric
Philosophy of the life sciences
Foundations of probability and statistics

History of biomedicine

Foundations of ethics and bioethics
Bioethics

Law and life sciences

Biomedicine and society

Molecular genetics
Biostatistics
Molecular oncology
Bioinformatics
Animal models
Evolutionary biology

Other activities

Conferences
Seminars
Journal clubs
Student meetings

ETHICS AS A COMPANION OF BIOMEDICINE

ETHICS AS A PEDANTIC GUARDIAN AGAINST BIOMEDICINE

The Independent Ethical Committee
(IEC)

1. Michael Barilan
2. Giovanni Boniolo
3. Ruth Chadwick
4. Gabriele De Anna
5. Mariachiara Tallacchini

Relative to the objectives of the European Union, the **Eurocancercoms** project will greatly contribute towards the strengthening of the integration of *science in society*; it will help the development of interactions and discussions among the many European scientific and medical communities working on cancer; and it will favour a fair homogenisation of treatment opportunities across the Union

(BIOMEDICAL) KNOWLEDGE AS COMMON GOOD

THE IEC DOCUMENT

1. General considerations

i) Ethical Strengths

ii) Warnings and Recommendations

2. Considerations and recommendations specific to each Work Package

ETHICAL STRENGTHS OF THE PROJECT

1. Promotion of distributive justice
2. Promotion of research and treatment
3. Sharing information is a public good
4. Improving information fosters agency
5. Stimulation of new ways of using information
6. Big step for the European scientific community

WARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I) *Potential shortcomings of the system.* These include ways in which the system may either harm some people, or fail to generate the good results which it is expected to produce.

1. Abuse of private information
2. Shortcomings in framing information
3. Media dependency: technological determinism
4. Enrolment of patients into trials
5. The system could make the technological divide even greater

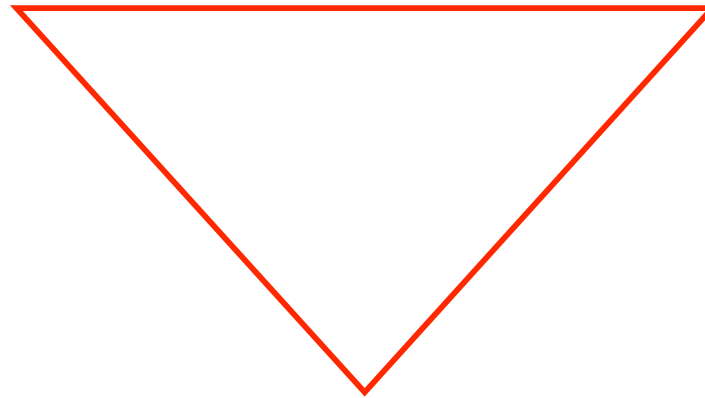
II) *Potential misuses and abuses of the system.* There are ways in which the system could become – maybe involuntarily – an instrument of misuse or abuse for some parties.

1. Quackery
2. Naïveté
3. Distortion

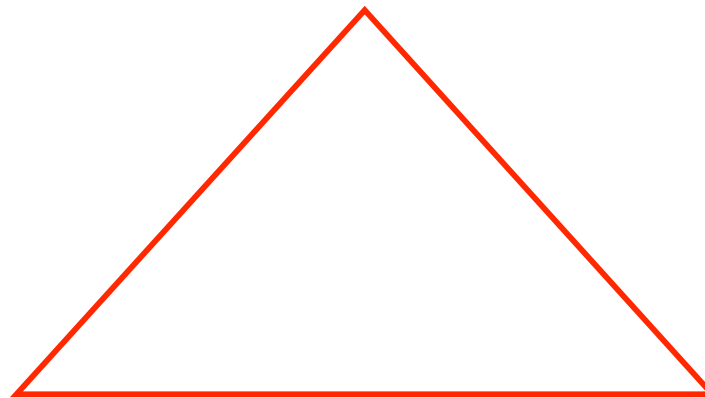
III) “Fragility” of information and information flows. Information, even in the common sense in which the word is used here, is not a context-neutral object, and this opens two problems.

1. Lack of disclosure, clarity and transparency
2. Hierarchical complexity of information flow

WP1 - WP2 - WP3 - WP4 - WP5 - WP6 - WP7



GABRIELE DE ANNA



IEC

(BIOMEDICAL) KNOWLEDGE AS COMMON GOOD

WELCOME IN THE ETHICAL FIELD!