



University of Cyprus
Department of Biological
Sciences

Postgraduate Seminars

Seminar Series 2018 - 2019

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School of Medicine

&

Director

Cephalogenetics Center

National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

“Genetics and Bioethics: A philosophical approach”

Wednesday, 6 March 2019, at 17:00

Building CTF 01, Room 110, Panepistimioupoli Campus

This seminar is open to the public

A discussion of Bioethics in Genetics will be presented in the light of the recent announcement of intervention in embryonic human genome using the CRISPR-Cas9 methodology by Chinese biophysicist Jiankui He, who stated that "he did it because he could do it". A pragmatic view of the current worldwide situation indicates that there are three main attitudes that most scientists have in regard to the purpose of the scientific research beyond any normal desire to develop their capabilities and flourish in their chosen line of work. One main attitude is thinking that the goal of doing science is one's personal advancement in career, fame and wealth at all costs and against most other people. Another main attitude is the sense of curiosity and adventure, as well as the feeling of being the first one achieving something. A third main attitude is being part in the best human endeavor which, in a spirit of objective international collaboration, aims to gradually alleviate ignorance and suffering and bring enlightenment and happiness to all people. Behind those attitudes there are philosophical ways of thinking, that contradict or concur with Bioethics and Humanism. History teaches us (for example Nazi eugenics and Mengele's experiments on humans) that science without humanistic ethics may produce devastating results for the scientists and the society.