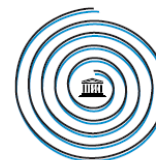


# Medicine and the Homo Futuris project

Tanguy Coenen

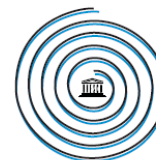
Wouter Van den Bosch





# Homo Futuris (HF) project

- Organises events that study the shape of the future human being
- Past HF events :
  - Seminar at the University of Antwerp in 2006
  - Festival at Vooruit cultural center, Ghent 2006
- Future HF events :
  - Seminars at educational centers
  - Festival at Vooruit cultural center, Ghent 2008



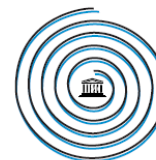
# Main HF themes

- Technologies :
  - Cybernetics
  - Genetics
  - Nano technology
- Questions :
  - Moral issues
  - Equity issues
  - General societal impact



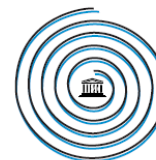
# Cybernetics

- Prosthetic limbs :
  - eg. advanced prosthetic limbs which can be controlled by means of neural input
- Hearing and seeing aids :
  - eg. helping blind/deaf people to hear/see



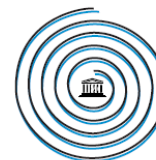
# Genetics

- Stem cells :
  - eg. growing new organs
- Genetic screening of individuals
  - eg. calculating the risks of getting a hereditary disease
- Germline gene therapy :
  - eg. controlling the genetic features of children
- Somatic gene therapy :
  - eg. Controlling your own genetic features



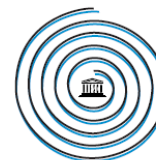
# Nano technology

- Improved diagnostics
  - eg. Micro Electro Mechanical Systems provide laboratory-on-a-chip technology
- Targeted drug delivery
  - eg. Implant which monitors various biochemicals in the bloodstream and release appropriate drugs
- Nanorobotics
  - eg. Small robots which reside in the body and carry out maintenance



# Moral issues

- *Moral* : what are the issues concerning right and wrong that come to mind when discussing new medical technologies ?
- eg. Is it good or bad to harvest embryo stem cells to grow new organs ?



# Equity issues

- *Equity* : what are the consequences of a world in which new medical technologies are unevenly distributed ?
- eg. If people are able to influence the intelligence of their children, what will happen to children of people who cannot afford this



# Societal issues

- *Societal* : how will new medical technologies influence our society in general ?
- eg. What are the societal consequences of a world in which most people die when they are older than 100.

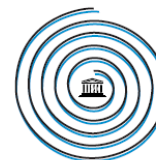




Homo Futuris

# More info

- [www.unescocentrum.be](http://www.unescocentrum.be)
- [www.homofuturis.be](http://www.homofuturis.be)



**UNESCO CENTRUM VLAANDEREN** V.Z.W.

