



webinar

Organoid Technology: Ethical Challenges

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CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIVE CHANGES IN RESEARCH ETHICS REVIEWS (CHANGER)

Background

- Trust in science and responsible research is highly dependent on the ethical qualities of research
- This is why research projects are submitted to an ethical review in Research Ethics Committees (RECs)
- RECs are multidisciplinary, independent bodies, charged with reviewing research projects to ensure that they adhere to ethical standards and principles
- The continuous emergence of new technologies and new forms of research bring new ethical concerns
- This makes the functioning of RECs increasingly complex and emphasizes the need to evolve to this gap

Overall objective

To promote innovative changes in research ethics reviews that strengthen the capacities of researchers to incorporate ethical judgements in the project design and support ethics committees to address new challenges emerging from new technologies and new research practices



WP1

- Coordination, managements, dissemination

WP2

- To provide evidence for the **challenges** posed by contemporary research
- To **assess the capacity** of RECs to assess and monitor innovative research projects

WP3

- To **develop and pilot innovative approaches** in research ethics reviews aiming to embed ethics-by-design
- To develop new tools for RECs and researchers to assess their own capacities to address new challenges and new human rights

WP4

- To **enhance knowledge** in the ethical challenges posed by the changing research environment and upskill ethics review experts and researchers
- To **provide training** in Framework Programme ethics experts

WP5

- To identify the **policy implications** of the proposed innovative approaches and tools
- To **promote policy choices** supporting the uptake and dissemination of novel ethics review approaches in the ERA at different levels



Organoid Technology and CHANGER

- Complex ethics issues (particularly for brain organoids and embryo models)
- Creation of organoid biobanks – “living biobanks”
- The complexity of organoids is increasing, e.g. assembloids consist of more than one type of cells/tissues, further resembling human organs

- **How should we ethically assess research involving organoids?**
- **Are existing informed consent models adequate?**
- **Novel methodologies of the ethics review of organoid research is needed**
- **Training of ethics experts and researchers is needed**





Thank you!

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