

European Network for Life Sciences, Health and the Courts *ENLSC*

A dialogue the South, East and West of Europe

FIRST

ANNOUNCEMENT

✚ The social and cultural implications of genetics and the legal regulations: a dialogue the South, East and West of Europe is the issue of the international conference that will be held in Pavia in November 2004 (date to be defined). In the occasion the general meeting of ENLSC will be held.

Prof. Charles Baron at Collegio Ghislieri (11th March, 2004).

✚ Prof. Charles Baron will give a conference at the Collegio Ghislieri (Pavia, I) on 11th March, 2004.
At this occasion the volume *Science, Law and the Courts in Europe*, Ibis, Como-Pavia (I), by A.Santosuosso - G.Gennari - S.Garagna - M.Zuccotti - C.A.Redì (eds) will be presented.

The volume *Science, Law and the Courts in Europe* is now available.

✚ The volume *Science, Law and the Courts in Europe*, by A.Santosuosso - G.Gennari - S.Garagna - M.Zuccotti - C.A.Redì (eds) collects the papers of the International seminar *Science before the Courts*, 3rd - 4th June, 2003 (see ENLSCletter n.2, www.unipv.it/BIOL/ENLSC.html).

Papers by **A.Santosuosso - C.A. Redì** (The Need for Scientists and Judges to Work Together: Regarding the European Network for Life Sciences, Health and the Courts), **Sheila Jasanoff** (The Epistemic Discretion of Judges and Daubert's Legacy), **Silvio Funtowicz** (Models of Science & Policy: from Expert Demonstration to Participatory Dialogue), **Javier Hernández García** (Judge and Science: Some Thoughts stemming from the Spanish experience), **Jürgen Simon - Jan Vesting** (Science Before German Courts. Regarding the Treatment of Scientific Problems in Legal Disputes), **Giuseppe Gennari** (The Assessment of Scientific Evidence: a Complex Proceeding), **Damir Marjanovic** (Applying Aspects of the Latest Molecular Genetic Discovery from the Field of Dna Analysis to the Court Cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina), **Amos Shapira** (Law and Bioethics in Israel: Between Liberal Ethical Values and Jewish Religious Norms), **Margarita Boladeras** (The Interaction between Law, Science and Society), **Christian Byk** (The Judge's Lonely Path), **Victor Gillioz**

(Swiss Judges Confronts Ethics Committees and Other Independent Institutions in Scientific Matters), **Sergio Seminara** (The Causation Theory in the Italian Case-Law and Legal Literature), **Ananda Chakrabarty** (Genomics, Law and Justice), **Oscar Richard Okumu Wengi** (Science, Health and the Courts: an African Judicial Perspective), **Warwick Soden** (Genetics in the Courtroom: the Experience of Australia), **Charles Baron** (Life and Death Decision-Making: Judges v. Legislators as Sources of Law in USA) and **Gioia Jacopini** (Relationship Between Science and Society: Is It a Model of Possible Alliance in Genetic Counselling?).

→ The book can be ordered directly to the publisher (ibisedizioni@galactica.it).

Seminars on case-law about life sciences

✚ After the Five conferences *The Techniques of Biology and the Tools of the Law* (March-May 2003: see in the www.unipv.it/BIOL/ENLSC.html), a new round of seminars on case-law about life sciences is planned in 2004 (May-October) at the Justice Palace of Milan (dates to be confirmed). The following issues will be discussed: Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), paternity testing; the access to shared genetic data; stem cells and genetic testing; DNA criminal investigations involving population; biomedical techniques and death. Seminars are organized by ENLSC in co-operation with the University of Pavia, Collegio Ghislieri Foundation and University of Milano (Facoltà di giurisprudenza)..

New educational programs in cooperation with ENLSC

✚ The organization of new educational programs for judges is in progress in many countries and especially in Spain, Switzerland, Serbia-Montenegro and Albania. Further information in the next *ENLSCletters*.

La Xarxa Europea de les Ciències de la Vida i de la Salut i els Tribunals

✚ An article by Margarita Boladeras (Universitat de Barcelona):

<http://www.unipv.it/BIOL/ENLSC.html>, section *Library*.

Bioetica. Rivista interdisciplinare

✚ The journal *Bioetica. Rivista interdisciplinare* (director: Prof. Maurizio Mori) kindly hosts papers and announcements of the network: see 2003, n.2 and n.3 (<http://www.consultadibioetica.org/rivista/presentazione.HTM>).

ENLSC and the media

The activity of the ENLSC has created a great interest in the media (have a look at the <http://www.unipv.it/BIOL/ENLSC.html>,

section *Library*). Among the others

✚ *Corriere della sera*, 27/9/2003

✚ *Corriere della sera*, 16/11/2003

✚ *Papers ACCC*, N.36, Novembre-deseembre del 2003

News & views



World Governments throw their weight behind Open Access

Governments from 176 countries including the UK have signed a landmark international agreement that explicitly supports Open Access. Described as the 'constitution of the information society', the Geneva Principles and Action Plan were adopted at the United Nations sponsored World Summit on the Information Society (www.itu.int/wsis/) in Switzerland this month. This is perhaps one of the clearest signs to date that Open Access is building into an unstoppable force. In the Action Plan, the governments pledged to: "Encourage initiatives to facilitate access, including...open access journals...and open archives for scientific information," and to "promote electronic publishing,...and open access initiatives to make scientific information affordable and accessible in all countries on an equitable basis. "Last week, Outsell's e-briefs, a weekly analysis of information industry issues, wrote on the World Summit and UK Government inquiry into science publishing: "Critical mass for the Open Access movement is starting to build, and it feels like a tsunami in the making."

(from *Biomed Central* news, Tuesday, December 23, 2003:

www.biomedcentral.com/info/update)

Famous murders and science



Sherlock Holmes, the most famous detective in the history of crime and mystery literature, was a real person or, more exactly, was inspired by dr. Joseph Bell, surgeon at Edinburgh Infirmary and professor at Edinburgh University when Arthur Conan Doyle was a young student. It's amazing that the character Sherlock Holmes has to thank, for his logical and scientific deductive reasoning, a person really existed in XIX century! Sherlock Holmes (and Joseph Bell, too) was the first man in modern history to guess and appreciate the strict relation between science, human life and law. In his opinion almost every mysterious human fact can find an explanation in causes and effects which science can often guess, explain and reveal. We can say that Sherlock Holmes was the first "scientific detective" and expert in forensic science in human history.

In the famous murder case of Eugene Chantrelle, Chantrelle's wife was found in agony in her bed. At a first sight, the doctors and the police thought to a domestic accident, caused by the breaking of pipeline and the loss of gas. Joseph Bell, immediately called by the "crime" scene, noted some traces of vomit on the lady's pillow and something else of strange around her bedroom. The autopsy confirmed that the young woman had no gas intoxication. Then Joseph Bell started to think about a murder and found traces of opium in the corpse. All that above was perfectly consistent with the traces of vomit and with the state of the woman in the latest moments of her life. Furthermore, Joseph Bell found the motive: Mr. Chantrelle had signed an insurance contract for the case of his wife death. Eugene Chantrelle was finally convicted and hanged on 10th May, 1878.

More information at http://www.siracd.com/work_bell.shtml ; <http://www.diogenes-club.com/joebell.htm>; <http://www.murder-rooms.com/new.html>

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