

## European Network for Life Sciences, Health and the Courts - ENLSC

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### "Nature" on ENLSC

✚ *NATURE*, one of the leading scientific journals, focuses on the need for the legal systems to keep up with nowadays rapid scientific advances ([www.nature.com/nature](http://www.nature.com/nature)). In *Biotechnology at the bar* (vol. 425, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2003) Nicola Nosengo confronts with the fundamental questions raising from the issue and emphasises the international activity of EINSHAC (US) and of the European Network for Life Sciences, Health and the Courts (ENLSC). See the article at ENLSC website: [www.unipv.it/BIOL/ENLSC.html](http://www.unipv.it/BIOL/ENLSC.html)

### "Avui", the Catalan Newspaper, on judges and science in Europe (an article by Mercè Piqueras)

✚ « La ciència i les seves aplicacions, especialment les relacionades amb camps de la biologia relativament nous, representen un nou repte per al dret i per als tribunals. Així ho han entès alguns jutges i fiscals italians que durant uns dies han canviat les togues de l'exercici públic de la seva professió per les bates d'estudiant en un laboratori de biologia. El curs Els jutges enfront de la biologia, coorganitzat per Amedeo Santosuosso, jutge de l'Audiència de Milà, i Carlo Alberto Redi, catedràtic de biologia del desenvolupament de la Universitat de Pavia (el cognom no és cap coincidència; dotze generacions per línia lateral el separen del seu famós avantpassat Francesco Redi), tenia dos objectius fonamentals: en primer lloc, reduir les esperes excessives i la falta de confiança injustificada que sovint els jutges tenen envers la pràctica científica i les aplicacions de la biologia. En segon lloc, proporcionar als professionals del dret la possibilitat de reflexionar a través del coneixement teòric i pràctic sobre la manera com es troba o es construeix la regla de judici en la casuística judicial sobre cada matèria...»

See the article at the ENLSC website or at the website:

<http://www.avui.es/avui/diari/03/set/27/z20127.htm>

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## Genetics and Justice: a theoretical/practical approach

✚ On September 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the second edition of the course *Molecular Biology and Justice*, organized by the Italian *Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura* (Superiour Council of Judicature, [www.csm.it](http://www.csm.it) ) and ENLSC, in cooperation with the University of Pavia (Laboratory of Developmental Biology, LBS, [www.unipv.it/BIOL/](http://www.unipv.it/BIOL/)) and the *Collegio Ghislieri* ([www.ghislieri.it](http://www.ghislieri.it) ), was held in Pavia.

Attendance to the course was limited to a total number of 40 magistrates. The aim of the course was to provide an hands-on-lab experience to judges. Participants were directly involved in laboratory activities, with the assistance of a group of LBS researchers. Judges have had the opportunity to observe chromosomes using fluorescence microscopes, removing the nucleus of a cell, performing a polymerase chain reaction - PCR.). During the course, several lectures were given by prominent researchers and professors. Then the participants experienced five *legal laboratories*: one hour and half spent to discuss on real cases, under both a scientific and juridical perspective and point of view. The leading Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* and the Spanish newspaper *Avui* (see above) reported on the course (by Giuseppe Gennari).

## A UNESCO meeting in Athens

✚ Geneticists from eighteen European countries met in Athens, 12-13 September 2003, in their quality of members of the *Regional Network and Common research programme in Central Eastern Europe and South Mediterranean Countries on Genetics*, supported by the UNESCO - ROSTE (Regional Office for Science & Technology for Europe). The cultural and social implications of scientific research and applications were under discussion as well. Judge Amedeo Santosuosso gave a lecture on *The social implications of genetics and the regulation by judiciary*. He presented the basic assumptions of the ENLSC activity and launched a proposal for a closer interaction between judges and scientists in Central Eastern Europe and South Mediterranean Countries. People attending the meeting showed a great interest in the program and very promising contacts are now in progress.

## The volume of papers of the International seminar, *Science before the Courts*

✚ The volume of papers of the international seminar, *Science before the Courts*, 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2003 (see **ENLSCletter** n.2, [www.unipv.it/BIOL/ENLSC.html](http://www.unipv.it/BIOL/ENLSC.html) ), will be ready by the end of the year (A.Santosuosso and G.Gennari eds). Are you interested in receiving the volume or, simply, in being informed of its issue? Please, write directly to the publisher (*Ibis*, Como-Pavia, [ibisedizioni@galactica.it](mailto:ibisedizioni@galactica.it)).

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**News & views**

## Clones and insurance companies at the Venice Film Festival, September 2003

Winterbottom's Imaginative Look Ahead, "Code 46"

✚ Recently presented at the Venice Film Festival (September 2003), the new BBC Films production "CODE 46", by the famous British director **Michael Winterbottom**, makes us rethink the future (and, in the process, of course, the present). It is a science-fiction story set in a future where the bulk of humanity has retreated to massive city-states, with admittance to them controlled by checkpoints and possession of a special type of insurance coverage called a "pabelle". Outside the cities, the rest of the world has mostly been taken over by harsh desert-like climates, where those non-citizens who lack "papelles" live out their bleak existences. The story focuses on a pabelle insurance investigator (**Tim Robbins**) who meets a woman (**Samantha Morton**) with whom he feels an instant bond, as the two quickly fall in love. They soon discover, however, that in the futuristic era dominated by cloning that they live in, their love is not meant to be. The reason why their love is social unacceptable stands in the fact that she is actually a clone of his long-dead mother. Social outcasts, the duo goes on the run, racing from city to city to avoid persecution, even though they know that the love that keeps them also keeps them from being truly together, as they are genetically incompatible... *(by Concetta Locurto)*

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The previous issues of the *ENLSCletter* are available on the website [www.unipv.it/BIOL/ENLSC.html](http://www.unipv.it/BIOL/ENLSC.html)

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