

Bioethics and the future of science

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Science expects, and is expected to produce, benefits, and many believe that science ought to produce benefits, that those benefits ought to be made broadly and justly accessible, and that part of the purpose of the Law including the law concerning Intellectual Property Rights (patents and copyright) is to facilitate this process. While these are not unreasonable assumptions per se, the normative claims underlying them require some moral explanation.

What is the purpose – or rather, what are the purposes – of science; how are these purposes fulfilled through the process of innovation; What is the role of bioethics in this process and what is or should be the role of the Law and governments in science and innovation?