Advances in biotechnology have made human gene editing a reality. Progress in the field is gaining momentum and promises for well-being at a level not previously imagined, emerge. This progress also raises ethical, legal and social considerations together with valid concerns that the law and ethics are lagging behind. Moreover, recent reports on abuse of these technologies have triggered disquiet. Gene editing involves precise additions, deletions and alterations to the genome. Basic science research in gene editing is already under way in laboratories globally. Clinical applications involving somatic (non-reproductive) cells are in the early stages and going forward there is great potential for the use of this technology in germline (reproductive) cells. The first SA Conference on Gene Editing, hosted by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) together with The Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics and the Wits School of Clinical Medicine will discuss and debate these issues including what this could mean for us in South Africa and Africa as a whole.
Thursday, 28 November 2019

8:00am – 9:00am Registration
9:00am – 9:15am Opening and Welcome to Symposium: Professor Martin Veller, Professor Glenda Gray

SESSION 1(a): Advances, Opportunities, Challenges: Chair - Professor Daynia Ballot

9:15am – 9:45am Professor Joseph Mfutso Bengo: “Is there a Home for Gene Editing in Africa”

9:45am – 10:15am Professor Johnny Mahlangu: “Inherited Bleeding Disorders: From Gene Transfer to Gene Editing”

10:15am – 10:45am Professor Abdullah Ely: “Gene Editing for the Cure of Chronic Hepatitis B Virus Infection”

10:45am – 11:15am TEA BREAK

SESSION 1(b): Advances, Opportunities, Challenges: Chair - Professor Patrick Arbuthnot

11:15am – 11:45am Dr Samantha Nicholson: “Gene Editing: CRISPR - Cas9, Cutting Edge Technologies and African Realities”

11:45am – 12:15am Ms Kwanele Asante: “Gene Editing: Perspectives from a Patient Advocate”

12:15am – 1:15am Panel Discussion: Opportunities and Challenges for Gene Editing in Africa: Chair - Professor Jantina De Vries
Professor Joseph Mfutso Bengo
Professor Johnny Mahlangu
Dr Samantha Nicholson
Professor Abdullah Ely
Ms Kwanele Asante

1:15pm – 2:15pm LUNCH BREAK

SESSION 2: WHO Session: Ethics and Global Governance of Gene Editing: Chair - Professor Glenda Gray

2:15pm – 3:00pm Ms Katherine Littler: “Gene Editing: Advances, Challenges and Safeguards”

3:00pm – 4:00pm Panel Discussion:
Ms Katherine Littler
Professor Jantina De Vries
Justice Edwin Cameron

Friday, 29 November 2019

8:00am – 9:00am Registration

SESSION 3: Scientific Progress, Ethics and the Law: Chair - Professor Ames Dhai

9:00am – 9:40am Professor Michele Ramsay: “The Current Status on the Science of Gene Editing”

9:40am – 10:10am Professor Melodie Labuschaigne: “Gene Editing: the Current Ethico - Legal Landscape”

10:10am – 10:30am TEA BREAK

SESSION 4: Ethics and Regulation: Chair - Professor Michael Pepper

10:30am – 12:00pm Regulatory Session: Towards an Ethico-Regulatory Framework for Gene Editing in SA.
(Mediated Discussion)
Dr Glaudina Loots (DSI)
Dr Gail Andrews (DoH)
Dr Ray Billa (HPCSA)
Professor Shabir Banoo (SAHPRA)
Professor Melodie Labuschaigne (Legal Expert)

12:00pm – 1:00pm Mr Seeiso Koali: “Scientific Progress and Research Integrity”

1:00pm – 2:00pm LUNCH BREAK

SESSION 5: ASSAF Consultation: Chair - Professor Melodie Labuschaigne

2:00pm – 2:30pm Professor Michael Pepper: “Gene Therapy including Gene Editing ELSI”

2:30pm – 3:30pm ASSAF Stakeholder Consultation

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

3:30pm – 4:00pm Professor Glenda Gray, Professor Ames Dhai, and Professor Daynia Ballot

Telephone: 011 7172190

08h00–16h00

ETHICS CPD: 5

28 Thursday – 29 Friday, November 2019

PUBLIC HEALTH AUDITORIUM, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION CAMPUS, PARKTOWN

RSVP: Samkelo.Nsiband@wits.ac.za
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