



Life Engineering Symposium

University of California, San Francisco, Mission Bay Campus - August 19-20, 2005

Applications, Ethics and Legal Issues

The Ethics of the Mutable World: Bioethics and Synthetic Biology

Laurie Zoloth

Director, Bioethics, Center for Genetic Medicine
Professor, Medical Ethics and Humanities and Religion
Northwestern University

Please click on the link above to watch the presentation – both slides and audio. This presentation file (noted by ) require the [Flash Player](#), available free online.

Abstract:

Laurie Zoloth is Director of the Center for Bioethics at Northwestern University, a Professor of Medical Humanities and Bioethics at the Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University, and also Professor of Religion, at Northwestern University's the Weinberg School of Arts and Sciences. From 1995-2003, she was Professor of Ethics and Director of the Program in Jewish Studies at San Francisco State University. In 2001, she was the President of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities and in 2002 was Vice President of the Society for Jewish Ethics. She is a member of the NASA National Advisory Council, the nation's highest civilian advisory board for NASA, The NASA Planetary Protection Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee of the International Society for Stem Cell Research, and she is the Chair of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Bioethics Advisory Board.

Professor Zoloth is also on the national advisory boards of the American Association of the Advancement of Science's Dialogue on Science, Ethics and Religion; The Data Safety Monitoring Board for the NIH International AIDS Clinical Trials Group; The Robert Wood Johnson's Project on Excellence at the End of Life; The American Association for the Advancement of Science's Working Group on Human Germ-Line Interventions and on Stem Cell Research; the Ethics Section of the American Academy of Religion; the Western Jewish Studies Association; The Louis Finkelstein Institute for Jewish Social Ethics; The Park Ridge Center's Project on Judaism and Bioethics, and the editorial boards of [The American Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics](#), [Shofar: A Journal of Jewish Studies](#); [The Journal of Clinical Ethics](#); [American Journal of Bioethics](#); and [Second Opinion: A Journal of Health, Faith and Ethics](#). She has served as the bioethics consultant to NASA's Ames Research Center's, and is a member of NASA's Interagency National Animal Care and Use Committees.

In 2000, Professor Zoloth was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Virginia in the Department of Religion and The Center for Medical Ethics. She is also co-founder of The Ethics Practice, a group that has provided clinical ethics consultation and education services to health care providers and health care systems nationally. She received her BA in Women's Studies and History from the University of California at Berkeley, her BSN from the University of the State of New York, her MA in English from San Francisco State University, her MA in Jewish Studies and her Ph.D. in Social Ethics at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. She has published extensively in the areas of ethics, family, feminist theory, religion and science, Jewish Studies, and social policy in The Hastings Center Report, The Journal of Clinical Ethics, Theoretical

Medicine, The Cambridge Quarterly, The HEC Forum, Medical Humanities Review, The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy, Tikkun Magazine, Judaism, The Journal of Religious Ethics, and has authored chapters in 27 books. Her book, Health Care and The Ethics of Encounter, on justice, health policy, and the ethics of community, was published in 1999. She is also co-editor of four books, Notes From a Narrow Ridge: Religion and Bioethics, with Dena Davis; Margin of Error: The Ethics of Mistakes in Medicine, with Susan Rubin; and The Human Embryonic Stem Cell Debate: Ethics, Religion and Policy, with Karen LeBacqz and Suzanne Holland and Riding on Faith: Religion, Popular Culture and the World of Disney, with Simon Harak (forthcoming)

Her current research projects include work on the emerging issues in medical and research genetics, and on the ethical issues in stem cell research, and her research interest in distributive justice in health care continues. In 1999 she was invited to give testimony to National Bioethics Advisory Board on Jewish philosophy and stem cell research. She has been awarded three faculty recognition awards at SFSU, for teaching large classes, for research, and for community service. In 2000 she was awarded a NIH ELSI (Ethical Legal and Social Issues of the Human Genome) Grant to explore the ethical issues after the mapping of the human genome. In 2001, she was named as principle investigator for the International Project on Judaism and Genetics, co-sponsored by the AAAS, and supported by the Haas Foundation and the Greenwall Fund. She lives in Evanston, Illinois, with her husband, Dan Zoloth Dorfman, an attorney. She has five children and one small granddaughter.