

The Symposium

The function of the human brain is still a mystery. Until recently, only post-mortem tissue was available for a structural examination of the brain. Consequently, the examination results could only reflect the state at the end of life. However, in order to better understand the development and function of the brain, dynamic and functional investigations of different human brain cells are necessary.

This is where brain organoids, artificially grown in vitro miniature brains, provide now the opportunity for more flexible research scenarios. At the same time, the use of brain organoids in research and therapy raises new ethical and legal questions. Against that backdrop, the international symposium aims at clarifying the moral implications that the application of brain organoids in research and therapy entails. The ethical reflections will be mirrored by corresponding legal analyses in order to identify the need for adjustments of the applicable regulatory framework.

Sponsored by



Bavarian State Ministry of
Science and the Arts

Online Event

The symposium will be held in a virtual format only. Participants and speakers will join via Zoom.

Registration

The symposium is now open for registration. If you would like to attend, please register at

<https://tinyurl.com/y52x25nb>

On this website you can also find further information on the modalities of your participation.

Conference & Registration fees

The registration for and participation in the symposium is completely free of charge.

Contact

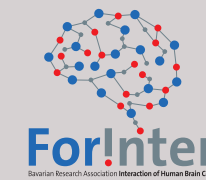
Professor Dr Hans-Georg Dederer

Chair of Constitutional and Administrative Law, Public International Law, European and International Economic Law

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Brain Organoids in Research and Therapy

Emerging Ethical and Legal Issues

International Symposium
25-26 February 2021

Schedule

25 February 2021

Welcome Address

Professor Dr Hans-Georg Dederer
University of Passau

SESSION 1: SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND

Development of brain organoids based on iPSC-derived brain cells

Professor Dr Beate Winner
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

Use of genome-edited iPSC-derived brain organoids for therapeutic purposes? – Lessons to be learned from current approaches to cell therapies of Parkinson's disease

Professor Dr Jürgen Winkler
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

Discussion

Break

SESSION 2: THE STATUS DEBATE

Ethical perspective: What is, or should be, the moral status of brain organoids?

Professor Dr Andrea Lavazza
University of Pavia

Legal perspective: What is, or should be, the legal status of brain organoids?

Professor Dr Jochen Taupitz
University of Mannheim

Discussion

Break

17:45-18:15

SESSION 3: THE INFORMED CONSENT CHALLENGE

Ethical perspective: ethical requirements for, and limits to, donors' and patients' consent

Professor Dr Jeremy Sugarman
Johns Hopkins University

18:15-18:45

Legal perspective: legal requirements for, and limits to, donors' and patients' consent

Dr Silvia Deuring
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

18:45-19:15

Discussion

19:15-19:30

Closing Remarks

26 February 2021

14:00-14:15

Opening Remarks

SESSION 4: THE CHIMERA ISSUE

14:15-14:45

Ethical perspective: moral permissibility of transplantation of human brain organoids into animals

Professor Dr Insoo Hyun
Case Western Reserve University, Harvard Medical School

14:45-15:15

Legal perspective: legal permissibility of transplantation of human brain organoids into animals

Professor Dr Nils Hoppe
Leibniz University Hannover

15:15-15:45

Discussion

15:45-16:00

Break

16:00-16:30

SESSION 5: THE ENHANCEMENT CONUNDRUM

Ethical perspective: ethical arguments pro and contra neuro-enhancement through brain organoids

Professor Dr Veljko Dubljevic
North Carolina State University

16:30-17:00

Legal perspective: legal arguments pro and contra neuro-enhancement through brain organoids

Professor Dr Tade M. Spranger
University of Bonn

17:00-17:30

Discussion

17:30-17:45

Break

SESSION 6: THE HARMONIZATION CHALLENGE

17:45-18:15

Ethical perspective: global harmonization of ethical standards regarding human brain organoid technology?

Professor Dr James Giordano
Georgetown University

18:15-18:45

Legal perspective: global harmonization of legal standards for brain organoid research and therapy?

Professor Dr Silja Vöneky
University of Freiburg

18:45-19:15

Discussion

19:15-19:30

Closing Remarks

David Hamburger
University of Passau

Please note: The times given here refer to the UTC+1 time zone (= Central European Time - CET).