

From lab to fertility clinic

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From lab to fertility clinic:

The welfare of the child and the ethics of introducing new reproductive technologies

1. As animal research inevitably comes at a moral price, it remains crucial to continuously (re)consider the extent to which animal research can be further replaced, reduced and refined (this dissertation, chapter 2).
2. There are no overriding moral arguments to support the notion that the use of human embryos may only be considered for research that cannot be answered by using animal models. Legal documents and professional guidance based on this notion should be changed to a justificatory framework that does not a priori favor animal studies over the use of human embryos in research (this dissertation, chapter 3).
3. Professional societies and governments should take a more active role in safeguarding the responsible development of reproductive technologies (this dissertation, chapter 4).
4. The reproductive field should put more effort in executing (transgenerational) follow-up research. In light of this, professionals may actively encourage MAR families to partake in follow-up research when seeking their voluntary consent (this dissertation, chapter 5).
5. Although new reproductive technologies create more chances for those dependent on them, they may also create the burdensome feeling of 'having to do everything within one's power' to have a genetically related child.
6. As thrill headlines about new medical breakthroughs create unrealistic expectations for those who seek treatment, journalists have a moral responsibility to be realistic about the development stage and should refrain from claiming that certain techniques will be available in the near future, when in fact they are only at a research stage.
7. Free market processes enable pharmaceutical companies to charge unreasonable prices for medicines. More collaboration between European governments is needed to counter Big Pharma's monopoly on drug pricing.
8. Conceptualizations and classifications of mental disorders inevitably reinforce pre-existing norms and power relations and are therefore never value-neutral.
9. The normative framework of responsible innovation in medically assisted reproduction, as proposed by ESHRE, needs to be adjusted and refined in accordance with the findings of this thesis.