

Responsible Science

Revision points from the series so far

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The purpose of this seminar series

- To promote responsible science
- To encourage thinking in relation to the implications of scientific and technological developments
- To enable scientists to communicate their work to people outside of their field

Expected outcomes

Participants will

- have a greater awareness of the potential misuse of scientific work
- be better science communicators
- be better able to interact with national and international control arrangements
- have benefited from networking

Responsible science – many definitions

Responsible science core elements:

- research integrity – honesty, no plagiarism, no false use of data
- understanding potential negative impacts of scientific activities and identifying ways to reduce these

Our focus is on the second element

First seminar (1)

- Scientific and technological developments do not exist in isolation – influenced by a range of factors
- There is no inevitable trajectory of scientific or technological progress
- Many materials and technologies have multiple uses – can be used for hostile purposes as well as peaceful ones (“dual-use”)

First seminar (2)

- Some areas of concern emerge when developments in different disciplines converge
- To understand implications of developments in one field may require understanding of other fields
- Scientists have power to influence the future

First seminar (3)

- Personal choices can be in areas with no absolute difference between right and wrong
- An experiment might be legitimate in one context but not another – examples of narcotics or compounds similar to nerve agents
- A simple choice to do one experiment of minor concern could lead to other activities of greater concern

Second seminar (1)

- Self-motivation of scientists needs to include culture of understanding implications
- Practical applications can raise new implications
- Younger generation often more aware of need to consider implications

Second seminar (2)

- Codes have evolved as means to help scientists put their thinking in a framework
- Codes have to be part of an ongoing process of education and awareness
- There is no single code that can cover all circumstances

Second seminar (3)

- There are many audiences for science communication
- It is important for the policy world to understand science, just as it is for the scientific world to understand policy
- Good science communication benefits the public (e.g., health issues)

Seminar programme

This week (22 June):

- Neuroscience
- Codes
- Personal choices
- Breakout rooms (if needed)

Seminar programme

Next week (29 June):

- A chance for participants to communicate their thoughts
- Short presentations of 5-8 minutes
- Four overlapping questions, participants are welcome to tackle one or more

29 June questions:

- (i) What are the wider implications of the area of research that you are working on?
- (ii) How do you see issues of responsible science relating to your work?
- (iii) Were there any additional topics that could have been covered in this online seminar series and why would it have been useful to cover them?
- (iv) Is there anything that the seminar team could do that would be useful to promote thinking about responsible science in the work of you and your colleagues?

Timetable, if you wish to contribute:

- E-mail will be sent out tomorrow with details
- Please let Maria Espona know (in English or in Russian) by end of Thursday 24 June
- Include an indication of your main theme(s)
- Provide any slides to Maria by the end of the day on Monday, for use by the interpreters
- Maria's e-mail =
<mariaespona@yahoo.com>

Any questions?