

# Northern Ireland Ethics Forum

The NIEF is very pleased to be organizing three events that are taking place as part of the 2016 programme of **Imagine: A Festival of Ideas**: <https://imaginebelfast.com/>

**They are free to attend and open to all**

**1. "Controversies about the Human Right to Health" Jo Wolff (UCL). 12.30-2pm, Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2016, Canada Room, QUB.**

Health advocates are increasingly arguing that there is a human right to health that must be respected by all governments. What, though, is the relation between the right to *health* and the right to *health-care*? Critics of the human right to health have argued that it leads to uncoordinated and grossly inefficient health care allocation, and is generally captured by those who are already relatively advantaged. While there is evidence that the human right to health has been used in this way, I will argue that these practices are a distortion of the human right to health as it should be understood.

[nief.org.uk/events/controversies-about-the-human-right-to-health/](http://nief.org.uk/events/controversies-about-the-human-right-to-health/)

**2. Panel Debate: "An Opt-Out Organ Donor Register: What is it, and should NI have one?"** Dr Chris Hingston (CLOD South Wales), Dr Paul Glover (Regional CLOD, Belfast, NI) and Nathan Emmerich (QUB). **1230-1400, Fri. 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2016.** Old Staff Common Room, QUB.

As of December 2015 an opt-out approach to organ donation has been adopted in Wales. This means that, following their death, those who live in Wales are presumed to be willing to donate their organs to others. Those who are not willing to donate must register their objection. In surveys a high percentage of the population says that they are willing to donate but far fewer actually register their consent the hope is that this will increase the number of organs available for transplant and, therefore, the number of lives saved. This event will be a panel discussion of the opt-out approach and include a talk entitled **'Wales: Opting In To Opt Out?'** by Dr Chris Hingston, the Clinical Lead for Organ Donation in South Wales. Chris will be joined by Dr Paul Glover (Regional Clinical Lead for Organ Donation in Belfast, NI) and Nathan Emmerich (QUB). The participatory discussion will focus on whether NI should follow the lead of Wales and move to an opt-out system of organ donor registration.

[nief.org.uk/events/panel-debate-an-opt-out-organ-donor-register-what-is-it-and-should-ni-have-one/](http://nief.org.uk/events/panel-debate-an-opt-out-organ-donor-register-what-is-it-and-should-ni-have-one/)

**3. Editing the Genome: "What do the Public think about Engineering Human Beings?"** Silvia Camporesi (KCL). **1430-1600, Sat. the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2016,** Crescent Arts Centre.

Due to its efficiency and versatility "CRISPR" – a genome-editing technology - has been referred to as a 'game changer.' Scientific research using this technology to modify the genomes of human embryos was [given the green-light](#) by the [UK's HFEA in January 2016](#). Whilst it has the potential to eliminate a range of illnesses and disabilities it could also be used for eugenic ends, or to create 'designer babies.' Whilst it is vital that scientists, bioethics and other academic experts consider whether and how to make use of this technology it is equally important that the public are kept informed and can express their views. In order to understand what members of the public think about genome editing Silvia and her colleague Dr Laura Marks conducted a survey of their views. More than 300 people participated. Silvia will present results of the survey and encourage a discussion with the audience.

[nief.org.uk/events/editing-the-genome-what-do-the-public-think-about-engineering-human-beings/](http://nief.org.uk/events/editing-the-genome-what-do-the-public-think-about-engineering-human-beings/)

## All Welcome