

ELSI in Modern Biotechnology

The Acronyms ELSI (in USA) and ELSA (in Europe) refers to the research activities that anticipate and address ethical, legal and social implications (ELSI) or aspects (ELSA) of emerging life sciences, notably stem cell biotechnology. ELSI was conceived in 1988 when James Watson, at the press conference announcing his appointment as director of Human Genome Project (HGP), suddenly declared that the ethical and social implications of genomics warranted a special effort and should be directly funded by NIH. In this presentation, ELSI aspects of several pioneering biotechnology including reproductive cloning, progestational gene analysis, regeneration medicine, stem cell travelling, synthetic life, nanomedicine etc. will be touched and discussed.