

Bioethics-In-Action Launched

New Non-Profit to Drive Informed Public Debate and Responsible Public Policy regarding Unintended Consequences of "Biotech Revolution"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information, contact:
Karl Haigler at khaigler@aol.com or
Howard Ulfelder at hulfelder@aol.com

Cambridge, MA, November 20, 2003. *Bioethics-in-Action*, a not-for-profit organization, was launched today with a mission "to foster thoughtful inquiry, discussion and deliberation on issues of science and technology in order to promote responsible public policy and education that is informed by our search for what it means to be human."

Bioethics-In-Action is dedicated to building consensus around a common agenda that respects diverse points of view and does not duplicate constructive efforts underway by other responsible individuals and organizations. *Bioethics-In-Action* will lead initiatives in areas of inquiry (Sober Second Thought model), teacher education (summer teachers' institutes) and accountability (the Institution Review Boards' action plan).

"Although science and technology have demonstrated their potential benefits, there is a need for increased public awareness, informed discussion and targeted action regarding their unintended consequences," said Howard Ulfelder, Chairman of *Bioethics-In-Action*. "Common sense and experience tell us that products of the 'biotechnology revolution' represent promise for some, but critical challenges for society as a whole. There perhaps is no more important ethical and moral area facing our generation – and generations to come," added Ulfelder.

"*Bioethics-In-Action* believes that informed public debate is the foundation for participation in a healthy democratic society," stated President Karl Haigler. "*Bioethics-In-Action* builds on a process of inquiry that will result in an action agenda that begins with 'sober second thoughts' regarding the use of science and technology. *Bioethics-In-Action* fills a void through providing a balanced and fresh voice about biotechnology and related ethical issues," concluded Haigler.

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For information on you can become a part of *Bioethics-In-Action*, contact Howard Ulfelder at hulfelder@aol.com or Karl Haigler at khaigler@aol.com

About Bioethics in Action. *Bioethics-In-Action* (www.bioethics-in-action.org) is a not-for-profit organization that was founded in 2003. The mission of *Bioethics-In-Action* is to "foster thoughtful inquiry, discussion and deliberation on issues of science and technology in order to promote responsible public policy and education that is informed by our search for what it means to be human." The organization is incorporated in Cambridge, MA.