

## PRESTIGE Ethics Panel & Ethics Rules and Regulations

### *Composition of the PRESTIGE Ethics Panel*

The PRESTIGE Ethics Panel is composed of three members appointed on the basis of their respective scientific qualifications and involvement in the French research and university community.

#### **★ Prof. Pierre van de Weghe - Panel Chair - Expert in natural and life sciences**

Pierre van de Weghe is Vice-President for international relations of the University of Rennes 1. A University professor, he obtained his doctorate in chemistry in 1995 and he was a grantee of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for a postdoctoral position at the University of Stuttgart, Germany. He was also a researcher in organic and bioorganic chemistry at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) from 1997 to 2007, which awarded him a Bronze medal in 2004. He coordinates a thematic research group in total synthesis and medicinal chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Rennes 1. His research is being conducted in partnership between his University, the CNRS and industry (Pierre Fabre Médicament).

#### **★ Prof. Loïc Vaillant - Expert in health and medical sciences**

Loïc Vaillant has been President of the François Rabelais University in Tours since 2008. A University professor and hospital doctor in dermatology, he earned his doctorate in medicine in 1984. He was also Vice-President for research and doctoral studies at his University from 1997 to 2001. He is a member of several learned societies, amongst others: President of the French Society of Lymphology, Vice-President of the French Society of Angiology, Vice-President of the French Society of Dermatology, board member of the International Society of Skin Imaging, member of the International Society of Lymphology.

#### **★ Prof. Hugues Fulchiron - Expert in legal and social sciences**

Hugues Fulchiron is Honorary President of the Jean Moulin University in Lyon. A University Professor, he earned his doctorate in law in 1984 and was appointed Associated Professor in private law and criminal science in 1991. He was also a board member of the French Conference of University Presidents – CPU (2010-2012), President of the CPU Committee on legal affairs (2010-2012), Dean of the Faculty of Law (2005-2007) and Director of the Law Doctoral School (1999-2005) of the Jean Moulin University in Lyon. He is a member of several learned societies, amongst others: Vice-President of the International Society of Family Law, a member of the French Committee on International Private Law, and a member of the International Academy of Comparative Law.

### *Ethics Rules and Regulations within the PRESTIGE programme*

The Ethics Panel advised the PRESTIGE coordinator to deal with ethics in a way appropriate to the programme's specificities and scale (e.g. variety of scientific fields, diversity of hosting/sending organisations, several cut-off dates a year).

That is why the following series of successive filters has been put in place:

1. As any proposed research project submitted by an applicant is already validated by the hosting/sending institution (most likely a French Higher Education and Research Institution), it shall in principle comply with the relevant French, and EU ethics-related rules and professional codes of conduct in force in public institutions. A Declaration on ethics issues duly filled in, signed and stamped by a representative of the host laboratory/research team must be uploaded by the applicant into his/her online application. Based on the European Commission templates for research-related projects, this declaration serves as a statement for research work on: Human embryos/foetus, Humans, Privacy, Animals, Dual Use, as well as involving non-EU Countries (ICPC Countries). Such a statement might not be sufficient, yet it acts as a **first filter** on potential ethical issues for each application. Any application involving a private hosting/sending institution would be subject to a specific attention.
2. A first screening of the submitted applications is performed by the programme's scientific coordinator during the eligibility evaluation and the search for relevant expert reviewers. This **second filter** foresees a possibility of dialogue with the applicant and/or his/her hosting/sending institution on the basis of the information in both the proposed research project and the Declaration on ethics issues. A specific request may also be addressed to the appointed experts.
3. The analysis performed by the expert reviewers (at least two different experts for each application) constitutes a **third filter**. The quality of the involved scientists is a guarantee of their thorough knowledge of ethical matters in research in general, as well as in their scientific field in particular.
4. As a **fourth filter**, any alert reported by at least one of the appointed expert reviewers about an even minor legal and/or ethical risk linked to an application, automatically leads to a referral to the PRESTIGE Ethics Panel. In such a case, the Panel shall prepare a report focusing on ethical issues linked to the research project in question. Such a report is then with recommendations to the programme's scientific coordinator. For instance, these recommendations may go from a simple suggestion of methodological adjustment up to the final withdrawal of the application.

In compliance with both the FP7/People Programme Ethics Guide and the Annex I of the Grant Agreement PCOFUND-GA-2013-609102:

- The referral to the PRESTIGE Project Officer at the REA by the programme's scientific coordinator is de facto automatic in case of **research projects including the use of Human Embryonic Stem Cells (HESC)**, in order to request an EU Ethics review and the agreement of the FP7/People Programme committee. Such research projects may only be funded once the REA has communicated the agreement to the programme coordinator.
- **The following are excluded for funding:**
  - Research projects aiming at human cloning for reproductive purposes;
  - Research projects intended to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (research related to cancer treatment of the gonads can be financed);
  - Research projects intended to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.