

Conclusions of the workshop on the science and ethics of eugenics, held during the 18th International Congress of Genetics in Beijing, 10-15 August 1998.

- 1.**Countries share many ethical principles based on the will to do good and not harm. These can be applied in many different ways.
- 2.**New genetic technology should be used to provide individuals with reliable information on which to base personal reproductive choices, not as a tool of public policy or coercion.
- 3.**Informed choice should be the basis for all genetic counselling and advice on reproductive decisions.
- 4.**Genetic counselling should be for the benefit of the couple and their family; it has minimal effect on the incidence of deleterious alleles in the population.
- 5.**The term 'eugenics' is used in so many different ways as to make it no longer suitable for use in scientific literature.
- 6.**In formulating policy on genetic aspects of health, international and interdisciplinary communication should be carried out at all levels.
- 7.**It is the responsibility of policy-makers concerned with genetic aspects of human health to seek sound scientific advice.
- 8.**It is the responsibility of geneticists to educate physicians, decision-makers and the general public in genetics and its consequences for health.