

Preface

The research project “CHIMBRIDS - Chimeras and Hybrids in Comparative European and International research – Scientific, Ethical, Philosophical and Legal Aspects”, coordinated by the Institute for German, European and International Medical Law, Public Health Law and Bioethics of the Universities of Heidelberg and Mannheim (IMGB), focuses on the scientific, ethical and legal implications of the creation of and research with human-animal mixed creatures.

National, European and international concepts and strategies concerning the legal and ethical framework of this research are still largely missing, even though they are absolutely necessary in order to use the potential of chimera and hybrid research effectively and efficiently for the benefit of science and society. Accordingly, dynamic development of chimera and hybrid research creates insecurity on the part of decision-makers and society at large. This has been evidenced recently when the approval of the Human Embryology and Fertilisation Bill by the UK House of Commons was controversially debated.

With research activities lasting from 01.10.2005 to 30.11.2007, CHIMBRIDS contributes to a solution for the existing problems, sheds light on the chances and risks of chimera and hybrid research and suggests legal solutions and prospective research practices in order to help decision-makers fulfill their tasks in an informed and efficient manner.

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VI Preface

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