

# Prenatal Diagnosis – Individuals and Society

**Conference 2–3 December 2010**



## Holmenkollen Park Hotel, Oslo

Prenatal diagnosis may lead to selective abortion and hence raises ethical questions for both individuals and the society. Different solutions have been found in the different Nordic countries. What can we learn from our experience with various regulatory regimes? Will the development in genomic medicine challenge the way prenatal diagnosis is conducted? Is there a need to revisit the ethical dilemmas and prepare for new regulations?

The conference is free of charge.

To register for the conference please send an email to Lotta Knutsson Bråkenhielm, [secretary@ncbio.org](mailto:secretary@ncbio.org), *no later than 25 November*.

Please indicate if you would like to participate in the conference dinner. The numbers are limited and the registration is binding. The cost for attendees will be 745 NOK. For hotel information and reservations: [www.hotelsoslo.net](http://www.hotelsoslo.net)

For further information about the conference, you may contact the organizing committee:

Grethe S. Foss, [grethe.foss@bion.no](mailto:grethe.foss@bion.no) (local organizer)  
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For practical information and registration:  
Lotta Knutsson Bråkenhielm, [secretary@ncbio.org](mailto:secretary@ncbio.org).

## Thursday 2 December

11.00 **Registration**

11.30 **Lunch**

12.30 **Introduction**

Thomas G. Jensen, chair, The Nordic committee on bioethics

12.45 **Regulating prenatal diagnosis – ethical dilemmas**

Grethe S. Foss, The Nordic committee on bioethics and The Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board

### **Session: Prenatal diagnosis in the Nordic countries today**

13.00 **Prenatal diagnosis in Norway – what is offered to whom?**

Sturla Eik-Nes, St. Olavs Hospital, Norway

13.30 **Prenatal screening as a free choice**

Olav Bjørn Petersen, Skejby Hospital, Denmark

14.00 **Overview on prenatal diagnostic regimes in the Nordic countries**

Janne Rothmar Herrman and Sirpa Soini, The Nordic committee on bioethics

14.30 **Debate**

15.00 **Coffee break**

### **Session: Prenatal diagnosis – individuals and society**

15.30 **Can the maternal age criterion still be defended?**

Berge Solberg, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

16.00 **Practicing Informed Choice: Distributing Life, Risk and Relations of Responsibility in Prenatal Decision Making and Knowledge Production**

Nete Schwennesen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

16.30 **Prenatal diagnosis, abortion and the medical control of reproduction – a critical history**

Ilpo Helen, University of Helsinki, Finland

17.00 **Prevalence and characteristics of pregnant women who refuse early prenatal screening**

Hildur Krisjtánsdóttir, The Directorate of Health, Iceland

17.30 **Debate**

18.00 **End of day 1**

19.00 **Dinner at the conference hotel (restricted number of seats)**

## Friday 3 December

### Session: Challenges in the prenatal diagnosis of tomorrow

- 09.00 **The predicting power of new technology in prenatal diagnosis**  
Soren Pedersen, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark
- 09.30 **How do we deal with uncertain information?**  
Jón Jóhannes Jónsson, University of Iceland and University Hospital, Iceland
- 10.00 **Defining congenital anomalies – a challenge for regulations**  
Annukka Ritvanen, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland
- 10.30 **Recommendations from the Danish Council of Ethics**  
Thomas G. Jensen, The Danish Council of Ethics, Denmark
- 11.00 **Debate**
- 11.30 **Lunch**

### Session: Are new regulations needed?

- 12.30 **What's good (or bad) with prenatal diagnosis? And how should it be prioritized?**  
Rurik Löfmark, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- 13.00 **New regulations are required**  
Klavs Birkholm, The Danish Council of Ethics, Denmark
- 13.30 **Will parents be held responsible for their children's genes?**  
Ola Didrik Saugstad, Oslo University Hospital, Norway
- 14.00 **Meaningful regulation in the future?**  
Sølvi Marie Risøy, Sogn- og fjordane University College, Norway
- 14.30 **Debate**
- 15.00 **End of conference**





**The Nordic Committee on Bioethics** was founded in 1989 to promote Nordic cooperation and exchange of information between scientists, parliamentarians, opinion leaders and public officials in the area of bioethics.

The Committee has two members from each Nordic country and an observer from the Faroe Island. Members are appointed for three years at a time by the Nordic Council of Ministers from the nominations of the Nordic countries.

The mission of the Nordic Committee on Bioethics is to foster co-operation between the Nordic countries by bringing together representatives from different backgrounds to discuss and analyse issues in bioethics in order to achieve greater awareness, promote common understanding and improve policy in this area.

**For further information:** [www.ncbio.org](http://www.ncbio.org)

**Chairman 2010:** Thomas G. Jensen  
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Göran Elinder, Sweden  
Grethe S. Foss, Norway  
Ásgeir Haraldsson, Iceland  
Janne Rothmar Herrmann, Denmark  
Gunhild Isfeldt, Faroe Islands (observer)  
Thomas G. Jensen, Denmark  
Anne I. Myhr, Norway  
Sirpa Soini, Finland  
Aaro Tupasela, Finland  
Katarina Westerlund, Sweden

**Secretary:** Lotta Knutsson Bråkenhielm  
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**The Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board** is an independent body consisting of 21 members appointed by the Norwegian Government and was established in 1991. The Board is founded in The Act relating to the application of biotechnology in human medicine, etc. and The Act relating to the production and use of genetically modified organisms, etc. The main tasks of the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board are to identify and examine the ethical questions raised by applications of modern biotechnology on humans, animals, plants and microorganisms, provide advice that can assist policy-making and stimulate public debates on the issues.

**For further information:** [www.bion.no](http://www.bion.no)