



## **7th HBIGS Lecture**

by

**Prof. Dr. Jens G. Reich**

*(Max-Delbrück-Center of Molecular Medicine, Berlin)*

### **„ Mixed Creatures - the Ethics behind Chimera Research “**

**Date: Wednesday, 9 Dec 2009**

**Start of Lecture: 14:00 s.t.**

**Venue: INF 267 (Bioquant), R041**

#### **Abstract:**

Recently one particular form of chimera research, concerning cytoplasmic hybrids between reprogrammed human nuclei and enucleated oocytes from domestic cattle was declared permissible by the British parliament while being very controversially debated in the German public sphere.

However, the scope of the problem is wider. We all know that there exist more than a dozen different methods of chimera construction and some of them are main methodical tools for modern embryonic, molecular and cell-biological research. Fundamental research into human biology as well as possible medical application requires chimeric construction involving also human cells or subcellular elements. A practical example is the penetration test of human sperm cells into hamster oocytes as differential diagnostics of male infertility.

Young scientists should be aware of what is going on in this field, but should also have a well founded ethical position and should know that legislation is widely diverse in different countries so that experiments which are legal in one country may be punishable in a neighboring country. The seminar will review these and other research methods involving (actually or prospectively) human cellular material and will study the bioethical issues involved as well as the controversial international legislation.