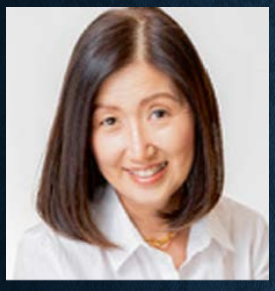
IFAPP Webinar

Ethics of genome editing and iPS cells: experiences from South Africa and Japan

14 September 2026, Monday
20:00-21:30JST/13:00-14:30 SAST, CET
8:00-9:30BRT
6:00-7:30EDT

Registration Free!

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IBRcL6WGRFOE6eoLPaWyhA



Yoshiko Saito

Safia Mahomed

Yoshiko Saito, MBA, Bioethics Working Group, Ji4pe, Japan, Cancer Survivor "Expectations and concerns on development of iPS cell manipulation technology: Regulatory and scientific status in Japan"

Safia Mahomed, BCom LLB LLM PhD, Professor, School of Law, University of South Africa "Heritable Human Genome Editing: The South African ethico-regulatory response"

Genome editing and iPS (induced pluripotent stem) cells have raised expectations for overcoming intractable diseases, whereas they cause critical concerns in ethics and safety regarding clinical application. In particular, their application to germ cells threatens human dignity, and returning them to the womb has been prohibited by law in several countries. In this webinar, a South African professor and a Japanese patient group leader (a cancer survivor) will present their perspectives.

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Bios and references of presenters

Yoshiko Saito, Holding a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Social Design Studies, from Rikkyo University, Japan, she is a breast cancer survivor and PPI (patient public involvement) practitioner bridging lived experience with bioethical inquiry. Following her diagnosis in 2015, she became actively engaged in peer support and, in 2022, joined the Japanese Institute for Public Engagement (Ji4pe), where she now leads the Bioethics Working Group. Collaborating with patient communities and multidisciplinary experts, she is currently exploring ethical questions surrounding cutting-edge technologies. She will present her perspectives on the science of manipulating cells towards healthcare that supports people, considering the spirit of the Helsinki Declaration and the Ethics of Care in the context of the future of iPS Cells research and its clinical application.

Reference for the lecture

Kurihara C, Saito Y, Kai H, et al. Patient Public Declaration of Research Ethics: Opinions and proposals from patients, public and communities on research ethics. In: Kurihara C, Greco D, Dhai A, editors. The 2024 Declaration of Helsinki: Global Efforts Towards the Highest Ethical Standards. Singapore: Springer; 17 September 2025. p. 205-24.

Safia Mahomed is a Professor at the University of South Africa's (UNISA) School of Law. She is an admitted attorney in the North Gauteng High Court. She obtained her LLM (Master in Laws) from UNISA in 2013 and her PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand (WITS) in 2018. Her research interests focus on questions around health law and bioethics, with specific emphasis on identifying gaps in South Africa's healthcare framework and developing regulatory measures to address them. Her current research trajectory involves an examination of the ethical and legal considerations for human tissue transfer and artificial intelligence in healthcare. Safia was awarded UNISA's Principal's Prize for excellence in research in 2019. She is a current member and former Chair of UNISA's Biotechnology and Medical Law Flagship, on the editorial committee at the South African Journal on Human Rights, a member of the Biobanks Ethics Committee at the University of the Witwatersrand and a member of the South African Medical Association's task team for AI in healthcare.

References for the lecture

Mahomed S, Ramsay M, Pepper M, De Vries J, Flack-Davison E. Section on heritable human genome editing withdrawn from the National Health Research Ethics Council Guidelines. S Afr Med J. 2025 Aug 1;115(7):e3967. doi: 10.7196/SAMJ.2025.v115i7.3967.

Ramsay M, Pepper M, De Vries J, Mahomed S, Flack-Davison E. Heritable human genome editing in South Africa - time for a reality check. S Afr Med J. 2025 Feb 18;115(1):e2872. doi: 10.7196/SAMJ.2025.v115i1.2872.