

Review of: "Bioethical Assessment of Research with Humanoid or Humanized Biological Entities with Uncertain Moral Status"

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Current technological innovations made possible the production of several types of human-animal “mixtures” that are essential to better understand several biological processes. In particular chimeras and transgenic organisms can help us to understand gene functions and could also be relevant from an applicative point of view.

The proposal of Lucía Gómez-Tatay and Julio Tudela represents an updated, reasoned and relevant description of the state of the research in the field of chimeras and other “organism-like” entities produced for various purposes in laboratories and whose bioethical status is uncertain and to be defined. Text is well structured, but I feel that is mainly descriptive and too scarcely focussed on discussion and analysis. At the same time, I think that the analysis of the public perception of these “entities” should also be included since, for instance, what people think about organoids and embryoids may be highly relevant in a bioethical discussion. At the same time, even if Authors properly put in evidence the ethical problems related to each discussed humanized biological entity, I do not agree with them that the principle of bioethical prudence currently represent the best solution to be applied to current research. On the contrary, I think that a general and global discussion should be favored involving different stakeholders in order to take decisions, whereas prudence (already used and still in use in several countries, for instance, on GMOs) may become a way for waiting to decide in place of favoring the necessary discussion and solution. Lastly, I prompt Authors to suggest possible discussion routes that can be followed to solve the ethical concerns that they properly evidenced.