

Hungarian – American Symposium on

Human Dignity and the Modern Academy

Challenges at the Crossroads of Science, Technology, and Medicine

***May 20-22, 2010,
Esztergom, Hungary***

*under the patronage of
His Eminency Péter Cardinal Erdő*

Sponsors:

*International Federation of Catholic Universities
Collegium Esztergom Society
University of Notre Dame du Lac
Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest*

***Main Themes: Truth and Relativism
Challenges of Genetics and Brain Research***

Organizers: Prof. Peter Kilpatrick

(Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Dean of School of Engineering, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana)

&

Prof. Tamás Roska

(Professor of Information Technology, Pázmány Péter Catholic University & Computer and Automation Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest)

Hosts: Prof. György Fodor

(Rector of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest)

&

Prof. János Székely

(Rector of the School of Theology, Esztergom & Auxiliary Bishop of Esztergom–Budapest)

Lecture durations might be about one hour (50-55 minutes) to leave about 15 - 20 minutes for discussion, altogether 70 minutes.

PROGRAM

Thursday, May 20, 2010

- 5:00 pm Opening reception
Opening:
5:30 p.m. Welcome by Peter Cardinal Erdő
5:40 pm Opening Remarks
Mission of the Symposium
Prof. Peter Kilpatrick
(University of Notre Dame)

Session on Protecting the Unborn and Stem Cell Research

- Chair: Rev. Prof. György Fodor
(Rector of the Pázmány Péter Catholic University)
- 5:50 pm Keynote Lecture – via telepresence
Personhood of the Embryo
Prof. Robert P. George
(McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence &
Professor of Politics and Philosophy, Princeton University)
- 6:50 pm Open discussion

Friday, May 21, 2010

- 9:00 am *Dignity of the Human Person, the Legal Status of the Embryo, and
Current Trends in Stem Cell Research*
Prof. O. Carter Snead
(Law School, University of Notre Dame)
- 10:10 am *Adult Stem Cells, Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells and the New
Frontier in Ethically Acceptable Stem Cell Research*
Prof. Gregory L. Timp
(Keough-Hesburgh Chair of Bioengineering and Systems Biology,
University of Notre Dame)
- 11:20 am Coffee Break

11:45 am *Molecular and Cellular Biology Research, Adult Stem Cells, and the Dignity of the Human Person*

Prof. David Hyde & Rev. Howard J. Kenna

(C.S.C. Memorial Director of the Center for Zebrafish Research,
University of Notre Dame)

1:00 pm Lunch

3:00 pm *Ethical Lessons from Systems Biology and Genomics*

Prof. András Falus

(Chair of the Department of Genomics and Immunology,
Semmelweis Medical University &
Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest)

4:10 pm Coffee Break

Session on Truth and Relativism

Chair: Mons. Prof. János Székely
(Rector of the School of Theology, Esztergom)

4:40 pm *Nature of the Hierarchies of Models and Laws in Nature*

Prof. Árpád Csurgay

(Pázmány Péter Catholic University &
Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

Saturday, May 22, 2010

Session on the Brain, the Mind, and the Soul

Chair: Prof. Peter Kilpatrick
(Dean of College of Engineering, University of Notre Dame)

9:00 am *Personhood, Neuroscience and Brain Research*

Dr. Tad Pacholczyk
(Director of Education, National Catholic Bioethics Center,
Philadelphia, PA)

10:10 am *The Fundamental Difference in the Evolution Between the Brain of
Primates and the Human Brain*

Prof. József Hátori
(Pázmány Péter Catholic University &
Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

11:20 am Visit at the *Christian Museum of Esztergom*

1:30 pm Lunch

3:30 pm *Ethical Issues of Neuromodulation in Functional Neurosurgery*

Prof. Loránd Erőss
(National Institute of Neuroscience, Budapest, Hungary)

4:40 pm *Closing remarks*

Prof. Tamás Roska
(Faculty of Information Technology, Pázmány Péter Catholic University &
Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

5:00 pm Closing Mass (elective)