

PREFACE

This book marks the birth of a very special series. Following *Scratching the Surface of Bioethics*, edited by Matti Häyry and Tuija Takala (VIBS 144), it is the second volume produced by a group of bioethicists in the North West of England, at the universities of Central Lancashire, Keele, and Manchester. One book does not make a series—but two might just indicate the beginnings of an institution.

Most chapters in this book are based on presentations given in the Second North West Bioethics Roundtable (NorthWeb 2), organized by Professor Søren Holm in Manchester on 3 February 2003. Some additional thematically-related papers were solicited from scholars who could not attend the meeting, but whose work complements the original contributions.

The sponsors of NorthWeb 2, and the ensuing book project, included

- *Empirical Methods in Bioethics*, a project co-ordinated by Professor Søren Holm and funded by the European Union Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources research program;
- *Genes, Information, and Business*, a project co-ordinated by Professor Matti Häyry and funded by the Academy of Finland research program Life 2000;
- *Ethical and Social Aspects of Bioinformatics*, a project co-ordinated by Professor Matti Häyry and funded by the Academy of Finland research program Systems Biology and Bioinformatics;
- *What Is Bioethics All About?* a project co-ordinated by Dr Tuija Takala and funded by the Helsingin Sanomain 100 Years Foundation;
- *Values in Bioethics*, a Special Series in Rodopi's *Value Inquiry Book Series*;
- *Centre for Social Ethics and Policy*, University of Manchester;
- *Institute of Medicine, Law, and Bioethics*, University of Manchester;
- *Centre for Professional Ethics*, University of Central Lancashire; and
- *Faculty of Health*, University of Central Lancashire.

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Matti Häyry, Tuija Takala, Peter Herissone-Kelly
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