Dialogue 6

Sex, Fecundity and Reproduction: Scientific, Social and Ethical Challenges

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National Institutes of Health

12 Noon, Friday, March 30, 2001
Rosenstiel Building 6018  (Pharmacology Conference Room)

Assessment of human fecundity, or the biologic capacity for reproduction, requires prospective inquiry using a variety of data collection instruments and the collection of a variety of biologic specimens. This research raises a number of under-addressed ethical issues: Must both partners be regarded as subjects? Is it advisable to assume paternity? How should subjects be counseled about intercourse, menstruation, contraception — and how truthful should investigators regard reports from subjects and their partners on these matters?

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