

GENE DRIVE SYMPOSIUM

Interdisciplinary symposium
on gene drives with a
focus on their scientific,
ethical, socio-economic
and regulatory aspects

FRIDAY
24 MAY 2019

09:15–18:15

Eventforum Bern

Fabrikstrasse 12

3012 Bern, Switzerland

With

Ignacio Chapela, Lim Li Ching,
Kevin M. Esvelt, Thomas Potthast,
Christopher J. Preston,
Klaus Peter Rippe, Doug Gurian-
Sherman, Ricarda Steinbrecher,
Helen Wallace and Fern Wickson

Gene Drives: Which path do we want to take as a society?

Gene Drives have the potential to circumvent the rules of inheritance in order to quickly and fundamentally alter wild populations of species or to exterminate them altogether. An idea that has long existed, gene drives may soon become reality with the help of new genetic engineering techniques, such as CRISPR/Cas9.

It has been claimed that gene drive technology may be used to combat infectious diseases such as malaria, dengue or zika, as well as to reduce the threat posed by agricultural pests and ecologically harmful invasive species.

However, a crucial difference with conventional gene technology is that gene drives intentionally target wild populations in order to permanently alter them. Gene drives are a technology that raises fundamental ecological, social, ethical and legal questions:

- > Are the promised goals achievable?
- > What environmental implications could we face if we were to eliminate populations or species using gene drives?
- > Are there dispensable species?
- > Who gets to decide?
- > What are the consequences of making such attempts if they are unsuccessful?
- > Are the appropriate regulations in place?
- > Which path do we want to take as a society?

A working group of international scientists, philosophers and legal experts has extensively considered these questions. The outcome of this process will be presented for discussion at the Gene Drive Symposium.

Tickets

Standard Fee: 120 CHF

Business: 180 CHF

Admission fee for representatives of universities, the industrial sector, public authorities and other participants whose employers pay their fee.

Reduced Fee: 90 CHF

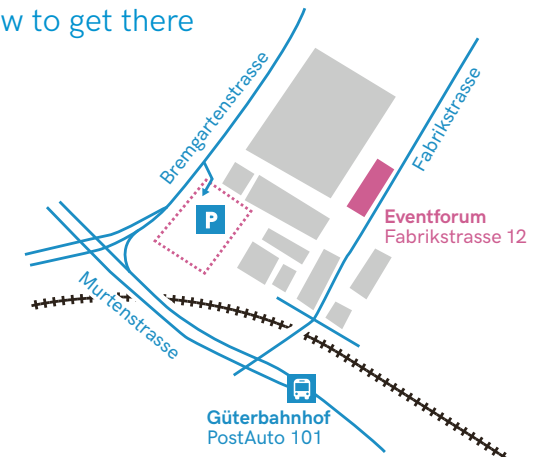
Members of CSS, ENSSER and VDW.

Low-income: 30 CHF

Students and low-income.
Participation should not fail because of money.
Contact us if the ticket and/or accommodation costs etc. are too expensive for you.

The price includes: Admittance to all scientific presentations and podium discussions, catering (organic) as well as conference documents and a printed update of our study results.

How to get there



www.genedrives.ch

Schedule

08:30–09:15 Arrival, registration, coffee etc.

09:15–09:30 Welcome

PART I

09:30–10:00 **Presentation:
The Technique**
Ricarda Steinbrecher
Federation of German Scientists (VDW)

10:00–10:30 **Presentation:
Applications**
Doug Gurian-Sherman
Agroecology Consultant
Strategic Expansion and Trainings, LLC,
Honorary Research Fellow,
Coventry University

10:30–11:00 **Questions to speakers of part I**

11:00–11:30 Break

11:30–12:30 **Panel with natural scientists**
Ignacio Chapela
University of California, Berkeley

Kevin Esvelt
MIT Media Lab

Moderation
Ernst von Weizsäcker
Honorary President of the Club of Rome

12:30–13:00 **Discussion**

13:00–14:00 Lunch

PART II

14:00–14:30 **Presentation:
Social Considerations**
Helen Wallace
GeneWatch UK

14:30–15:00 **Presentation:
Ethical Considerations**
Christopher J. Preston
University of Montana

15:00–15:30 **Presentation:
Regulatory Considerations**
Lim Li Ching
Third World Network

15:30–16:00 **Questions to speakers of part II**

16:00–16:30 Break

16:30–17:30 **Ethics panel**
Thomas Potthast
International Centre for Ethics in the
Sciences and Humanities (IZEW),
University of Tübingen

Christopher J. Preston
University of Montana

Klaus Peter Rippe
Federal Ethics Committee on
Non-Human Biotechnology (ECNH)

Fern Wickson
GenØk Centre for Biosafety

Moderation
Kristin Hagen
Agricultural Ethics

17:30–18:00 **Discussion**

18:00–18:15 **Goodbye**

18:15 Apéro riche

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