

TERMS OF REFERENCE
INTERNATIONAL EMBRYO TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (IETS)
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HEALTH AND
SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HASAC)

1. Preamble

The Emerging Technologies and Issues Subcommittee (ETIS) of the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS) Health and Scientific Advisory Committee (HASAC) is an advisory subcommittee composed of technical and regulatory specialists in relevant disciplines of new and emerging technologies (i.e. advanced reproductive techniques, cloning, genetic engineering, epigenetics, nanotechnology, stem cells, cryopreservation) associated with reproductive biotechnologies, animal and human health and safety. The subcommittee reviews relevant questions and information posed by members of the Society regarding new and emerging technologies related to reproductive biotechnology and the uses and regulation thereof. The subcommittee responds to questions, interacts with individuals and groups and proposes statements of guidance and policy at both the national and international level. Recommendations based on current scientific knowledge are submitted to the IETS Board of Governors (the Board) through the parent Committee (HASAC) to provide information to relevant international agencies such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to promote compatibility of world policies and regulations regarding reproductive biotechnologies.

2. Mission Statement

To regularly review all scientific literature relevant to new and emerging technologies related to reproductive biotechnology. The Subcommittee will evaluate the literature related to potential risks associated with new and emerging technologies that may affect regulation and trade of embryos, gametes, animal products and animals based on risk assessments for the spread of disease or for the safe consumption of products derived there from by humans and other animals. The committee will encourage, to the fullest extent possible, the publication of relevant information in peer reviewed literature, where it can be assessed by the committee, and ultimately by relevant international agencies and ultimately by consumers.

To develop guidelines, such as codes of practice, recommendations, quality assurance standards, policy statements and other information pertinent to the introduction of new and emerging technologies into routine or common use throughout the world that promotes the use of new technologies while considering the safety of animal products derived there from to human and animal health.

To communicate to the IETS Board through the parent Committee (HASAC) the information and assessments made by the members of the committee, and upon acceptance by the Board, to the IETS membership and relevant international agencies.

3. **Scope**

The work of the ETIS includes the following:

- a. Maintaining up-to-date information on new and emerging technologies and methods related to reproductive biotechnology including; pharmaceutical agents used, sources of materials and animal products used, laboratory methods employed (including methods of advanced reproductive techniques, genetic engineering, epigenetics, stem cells, cryopreservation, propagation and culture of embryos, collection and storage of gametes etc.), and potential approaches to risk assessment. The ETIS will produce a compilation of scientific literature relevant to these topics.
- b. Using available information, conducting risk analyses of the use of new and emerging technologies related to reproductive biotechnology with respect to regulation and trade of embryos, gametes, animal products and animals and risk assessments related to the spread of disease or for the safe consumption of products derived from these technologies by humans and other animals.
- c. Developing and recommending codes of practice, quality assurance standards, policy statements and other information pertinent to risk management that reflects the obligation of those involved in the development and use of new and emerging technologies to achieve a high standard of safety to both humans and animals and promote international compatibility of regulation and standards for the adoption of new technologies that will be of benefit to mankind and the environment.

4. **Structure**

The ETIS is organized each year by members of IETS who attend the Subcommittee meeting during the IETS annual meeting from year to year. The Subcommittee is led by a chairperson. Each year a recording secretary is appointed to record the minutes. Workgroups can be formed by the ETIS as necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Subcommittee throughout the year. However, workgroups are to conduct the business via the HASAC Discussion Forum (<https://apps.fass.org/IETS/hasac-comm-forum/discussion.asp>)

5. **Appointment and Process**

The ETIS is led by a chairperson appointed by the HASAC chairperson and confirmed by the Board and may serve for a period of 5 years, renewable. If the chairperson resigns the position or must be terminated for any reason, the HASAC chairperson will appoint an acting chairperson until a new chair can be confirmed by the Board, but no later than the commencement of the next IETS annual meeting.

The members of the ETIS are all volunteers and do not receive any remuneration for their participation in the Subcommittee. Their membership and participation is approved by the chairperson. To the extent possible, the ETIS membership will be balanced between geographical

areas and continents, between public and private sector and between various fields of expertise such as scientists, practitioners, administrators, regulators etc.

Some invited non-members with appropriate interests and expertise may also serve on the Subcommittee.

6. Supporting Structure

The ETIS is an instrument of the HASAC and the Board of Governors to which it reports after each of its meetings. No public action or initiative of the ETIS can be taken without the approval of the President of the Board. Internal communication to the members of IETS is the responsibility of the HASAC chairperson and shall be conducted via the HASAC Discussion Forum. The Subcommittee chairperson and members of the Subcommittee should communicate the business of the Subcommittee only with the formal approval of the HASAC chairperson. External communication is the privilege of the Board and the President of the Society. Only the HASAC chairperson communicates externally and that is only after formal approval of the President of the Society.

All members of the ETIS are *de facto* members of the HASAC.

7. Frequency and Location of Meetings

The ETIS will meet formally and face-to-face at least once annually at the time and location of the IETS annual meeting. The Subcommittee can meet at other times as necessary via the HASAC Discussion Forum, by teleconference or other means and workgroups of the Subcommittee can meet as necessary. In case of urgent need, additional meetings could be convened during the year upon approval by the HASAC chairperson and the President of the Board.

8. Support

A secretariat does not exist for the ETIS or for the HASAC, but the IETS business office, FASS, is available to support the Committee and the Subcommittee activities when necessary. Financial support for the activities of the ETIS may be requested only by the HASAC chairperson upon approval of the Board, depending on the budget allocated to HASAC by the Board.