

*Adelina Ileva, Ph.D.,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences*

The role and activities of scientific society to ensuring the research integrity

Recently, scientists have met huge ethical problems in the different fields of knowledge. Even in the academic fields and disciplines. It was unheard! The integrity of the research process now is being questioned!

Scientists are not able to find an adequate recipe to deal with these problems in the conceptual ethical level, because it does not exist. However, the specific science ethos needs to find out a way to defend the old traditional ethical values in scientific community and reconstruct and enriched them in the new occurring events.

These problems provoked an enormous work in science ethics in recent times. The situation in which science is making today is a quite different than in the past. The scientists, even in the academic science, started to organize their own regulatory mechanisms toward ensuring the research integrity.

However, the real situation shows that these problems hardly can stay between the "academic walls" only.

With the development of the new technologies, in particular modern biotechnology, scientists and society at large meet a big challenge in ethical aspect. Scientists start to transform "non-science issues" – social, legal and ethical into scientific. However, the ethical problems concern biotechnological development demand broad discussion. Biotechnological research challenged the modern social capability of harmonizing the rate of advanced with social profit and unexpected damage. This kind of research tends to become by industry itself, expected to revolutionize agriculture, pharmaceuticals and medicine. Hence, the interest involved range from the society at large /consumers, producers/ to the inventive research teams.

What is the place of scientist in this large discussion on ethics in biotechnology? How they manage to transform the set of ethical norms into an ethical regulatory action?