Genetic Discrimination and the Law

Message from the Guest Editor

Genetic science and technology are advancing at a fast pace, with scientists continuing to make genetic discoveries with respect to the make-up of the human body, and the cause and effect of disease, diversity and disability amongst individuals. Scientific and technological innovations are becoming more refined, resulting in an increase in the availability and use of genetic testing, and other cutting edge genetic technologies. However, the new genetic era exposes unintended consequences and highlights a minefield of legal, ethical and regulatory challenges in medical and non-medical contexts, and indeed in society in general. It also raises ethical questions about personhood, disability and philosophical questions about what it means to be human.

This Special Issue examines a wide variety of questions arising in the emerging field of genetics law and policy, with a particular focus on the issue of genetic discrimination. The area comprises an intersection of a variety of disciplines, including genetic science, bioethics, human rights, medical law and disability law. It welcomes submissions on broader impact of the field in commercial and other settings, the impact in the area of disability rights, as well as more targeted submissions on the particular concerns arising with genetic discrimination.