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Bio-ownership: who owns the stuff of life?

Questions to stimulate reflection

Do you think Henrietta Lacks' family should be compensated for the use of her cells?

Should consent forms include mention of all the specific uses to which a sample might be put?

Should consent forms include a waiver to any claim on profits to be made on tissue samples taken?

Does an overly sentimental attitude to dead bodies inform the UK Human Tissue Act 2004?

Was Darwin a bioprospector or a biopirate? What's the difference?

Will the 1993 Biodiversity Convention protect indigenous peoples or facilitate their exploitation?

Is isolating a gene enough to make it an *invention* rather than a *discovery*?

Are patents on the whole a good thing because they reward creativity, or a bad thing because they increase the costs of medical research?

If an organisation owns a particular trait of a soybean seed does this mean it owns every product that can be made from that seed?