



Panel

A podium discussion at scientific conferences is also referred to as a panel. In these discussions, experts exchange their positions on a specific topic.

TASK First, imagine a timeline. The timeline begins with fertilization and ends at birth. Stand at the position you represent. Describe your position and why you represent it.

Send four representatives with different positions to a panel. Possible positions may be:

Position 1: **From fertilization**

Position 2: **At implantation in the uterus**

Position 3: **The embryo becomes worthier of protection with time**

Position 4: **Only after it is viable outside the womb**

OBJECTIVE The four panel participants debate for 10 minutes. The public may then ask questions.

TIP In addition to the Panel material sheets, you can also use the Poster A material sheets to give your position a legal basis.





Poster

Posters are used at conferences to present research projects and results. They are often designed using a template that conference participants use for the presentation.

TASK Work in two groups. One group designs a poster on the topic *Legal framework for stem cell research in Germany*. The other group designs a poster on Subject protection: *questions that patients should ask*.

OBJECTIVE Your poster offers a brief overview of your topic. The most important regulations should be apparent in the legal framework. Historical developments should be recognizable. Develop a patient checklist for subject protection.

TIP Use the Legal Basis and Subject Rights material sheets to prepare, as well as the short film *Patient Cells – an Ethical-Legal View* with Nils Hoppe.

BONUS Establish a comparison between international legislation and jurisprudence.

Poster topics

Poster A: Legal framework for stem cell research in Germany

Poster B: Subject protection: questions that patients should ask





Pitch

A pitch is a short presentation advertising a project. Scientific pitching of research projects to find support for your research proposal.

TASK Work in two groups.

One group prepares a pitch on a research project. The project aims to produce induced pluripotent stem cells for disease models.

The other group are conference participants. They examine the project on three levels:

- 1. Feasibility: Is it legally, organizationally and financially feasible?**
- 2. Benefit: Who profits from the project and who may be harmed?**
- 3. Morality: Are any ethical values violated by the project?**

OBJECTIVE Your pitch should convince the conference participants that the project is important and worthy of funding. As a conference participant, you should question this critically

TIP In addition to the New Aids for *Disease Research* text, use the material sheet Poster A: *Legal Basis*.





Fishbowl

A fishbowl is a special type of discussion used at scientific conferences. Conference participants share their perspectives on a specific topic. Participants from the audience are able to join the discussion at any time. An extra chair is laid out, on which anyone can come and sit and explain their point of view.

TASK

Prepare a fishbowl on the following issue:

Should it be legal to modify the human germline using designer nucleases?

Work in three groups. Each group should prepare one of the following three positions:

- 1. No, modifying the germline should not be permitted under any circumstances.**
- 2. Yes, but modifying the germline should only be permitted for the purpose of curing serious diseases.**
- 3. Yes, modifying the germline should be permitted to cure disease and to enhance human characteristics such as intelligence, strength, endurance, and appearance.**

Gather together arguments for your position. Prepare an opening statement.

Prepare three critical questions for or counterarguments to the other two positions.

TIP

You can use the following structure for your opening statement:

Introduction: Today, we are asking whether it should be permissible to modify the germline.

Thesis: We believe: (Position 1, 2, or 3)

Argument 1: One reason for this is ...

Argument 2: A further argument for this position ...

Argument 3: The key reason is that ...

Thesis: It therefore follows that (position 1, 2, or 3)

