THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2018

8:00  Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30  Welcome
Lisa Saladin, PhD — Provost, Medical University of South Carolina

8:35  Introductory Comments
Robert M. Sade, MD — Director, Institute of Human Values in Health Care
Goals and format of the workshop

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

8:45  SUSAN LEDERER, PhD — Robert Turrell Professor and Chair, Department of Medical History and Bioethics, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison WI
Franken-Fears — Implications for Bioethics and Biomedicine

9:30  KATHLEEN BÉRES ROGERS, PhD — Associate Professor of English, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC
What is Normal? Monstrosity in Romantic-Era England

10:00  Panel: Lederer and Rogers

10:30  BREAK

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:45  Charge to Participants
Format and goals of working groups. Questions for discussion range widely:
Artificial Intelligence
Genetic Technologies
Transhumanism
Transplantation and Organ Donation
Human Reproduction & Creation of Life
11:00  **Working Session 1**
Moderators will facilitate the working groups, with the assistance of scribes. Session will include **WORKING LUNCH** at 12:00-12:30

12:30  **Working Session 2**

2:00  **BREAK**
During the break, moderators and scribes will prepare a PowerPoint summary of the group’s work for review with the larger group.

**PLENARY SESSION: WORKING GROUP SUMMARIES**

2:30  Moderators will present summaries; the conference will reach consensus conclusions based on the summaries.

4:00  **ADJOURN**
EVENT GOALS

This workshop will explore the contemporary relevance of one of the best-known and widely influential novels of the last two centuries: Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley’s *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*. The book was one of the early creators of both the monster and the Gothic genres of literature. It has been translated into many art forms, including theatrical plays, motion picture films, paintings, and sculpture, and has been the focus of books and essays by scientists, historians, English language scholars, sociologists, and many others.

Participants in the workshop will have read the 1818 version of *Frankenstein*, which can be obtained in paperback ($10.69) and Kindle ($0.99) at this URL. Breakout groups will explore many of the areas of contemporary science, medicine, ethics, law, and sociology to which Shelley’s *Frankenstein* is relevant, including such topics as Artificial Intelligence, Genetic Technologies, Transhumanism, Transplantation and Organ Donation, Human Reproduction, and Creation of Life. Exploring these themes within the context of the novel will provide opportunities to ponder some of the universal questions the novel addresses and enhance our understanding of the contemporary issues. The proceedings of the workshop might result in one or more publications.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The keynote speakers noted in the program are experts in the field of early 19th century literature and the relevance of the Frankenstein story to contemporary life. Besides her noteworthy academic credentials, Prof. Lederer recently curated an exhibit at the National Library of Medicine: *Frankenstein—Penetrating the Secrets of Nature*. Prof. Rogers’ scholarly focus is on late 18- and early 19-century English literature, precisely the era in which Frankenstein was created.

After the introductory addresses, the participants will split into separate working groups. Specific questions will be provided to help direct their discussions.

An experienced moderator will guide the discussion of each working group and will be supported by a scribe who will keep detailed minutes. Each group will comprise 6-12 participants of differing backgrounds to provide diverse perspectives in addressing the discussion questions.

In the afternoon all groups will gather in a plenary session to hear reports from the moderators of each session; the participants as a group will aim to reach consensus conclusions about the relevance of Shelley’s Frankenstein to contemporary science, medicine, ethics, law, and social issues.

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Images come from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository; Wellcome Images, a website operated by Wellcome Trust, a global charitable foundation based in the United Kingdom. Refer to Wellcome blog post (archive). Center: Frankenstein’s monster (Boris Karloff), The Man in Question; Clockwise from top: Embryogenesis, Anatomist90; Prometheus, Wellcome Library, London; Woman power, Public Domain; Microprocessor, Intel Free Press; Male Cyborg Pat Loika; DNA Replication, Madprime.