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### **Rethinking Life and Death through the Lens of NESTs**

New emerging science and technologies (NESTs) are challenging society and affect all aspects of social life and human perception of and attitude towards the world. NESTs embrace nanobiotechnology, molecular biology, cognitive science and brain research, information and communication technologies, etc. NESTs have a potential to expand human cognition and communication, to improve human health and physical capacity; they are important for national security, medicine, education, etc. At the same time NESTs transform many practices related to the human and non-human nature (reproductive technologies and birth/life control; human and animal enhancement; termination of life at will/euthanasia) and generate new ones (SynBio, BioArt, DIY-biology and biohacking, etc.). They put on the discussions agenda a broad scope of issues, which need deep philosophical, ethical and social reflections.

Among the core questions raised by NESTs are the following ones:

- redefinition of criteria for living, non-living and dead; for semi-living and semi-dead; for organic and non-organic; for natural and artificial, etc.;
- revision of opposition between death, life and immortality, including human immortality (in transhumanist discourse);
- rethinking of life and death phenomena and redrawing boundaries between them.

The goal of the presentation is to outline changes in thinking about and understanding of life and death as the basic notions for philosophy, ethics, biology, anthropology, etc. The presentation will refer to examples from new practices mentioned above. Rethinking death helps us not only to realize essence of this phenomenon, but it also clarifies importance of valuing life.

**Keywords:** NESTs. Synthetic biology. BioArt. DIY-biology. Biohacking. Death. Valuing life.

## **prof. PhDr. Vasil Gluchman, CSc.**

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### **Bioethical Issues of Kišš's Theory of Humanized Deontology**

The author pays attention to the opinions of the significant Slovak Lutheran theologian and ethicist Igor Kišš and his theory of humanized deontology. He studies Kišš's opinions on the issue of the human body, abortion, euthanasia, etc. The author comes to the conclusion that Kišš has created a highly modern and liberal theory of Protestant ethics based on the principle of humanity (love to one's neighbour) as a central principle. The principle of humanity, together with the emphasis on the examination of consequences and a potential need for the lesser evil, aims at giving reasons for a possible diversion from rigorous extreme deontology. This creates space for accepting liberal views within Christianity or Protestantism, which, however, must be in accordance with the value of humanity.

**Keywords:** Euthanasia. Abortion. Death. Suffering.