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Advanced biological and biomedical research focusing in particular upon reproductive and regenerative medicine, clinical trials and the genomics of disease susceptibility is a key national, commercial and scientific priority in both China and Europe. Such research raises many challenges for ethical governance of scientific and medical practice, many of which have particular relevance to ensuring best practice in EU-China scientific collaborations.

BIONET is a Consortium of 21 EU and Chinese partners examining the challenges facing the ethical governance of research in the life sciences and biomedicine in China and the EU. It is funded under the European Commission Sixth Framework programme. As a sustainable network within and between China and Europe, BIONET will focus on three key areas: **reproductive and regenerative medicine, clinical trials, biobanks** and the **genomics of disease susceptibility and treatability**, in a collaborative effort that can:

- map the rationales for and practices of ethical governance of such advanced biological and biomedical research in China
- provide a platform for the development of comparative research on ethical governance in China and the EU
- advance social scientific understanding of key bioethical issues, challenges and approaches generated in contemporary biomedical research through dialogue between researchers and practitioners in China and the EC
 - undertake training of researchers and practitioners in key issues
- inform policy and practice in the ethics of biomedical research in China and the EU with particular relevance for scientific collaboration

You can find full details of partners, of our programme of workshops and conferences, and reports of BIONET activities on our website at <http://www.bionet-china.org/>

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