



University of Basel

Institute for Biomedical Ethics

# Balancing Interests in Regulating Genetic Engineering in Animals and Plants

## Date

25.03.2026

## Venue

Seminarraum  
Missionstrasse 62  
4055 Basel

## Participation

Participation is free, coffee and lunch are offered.  
Please confirm your attendance by registering through the following link or by scanning the QR code below:

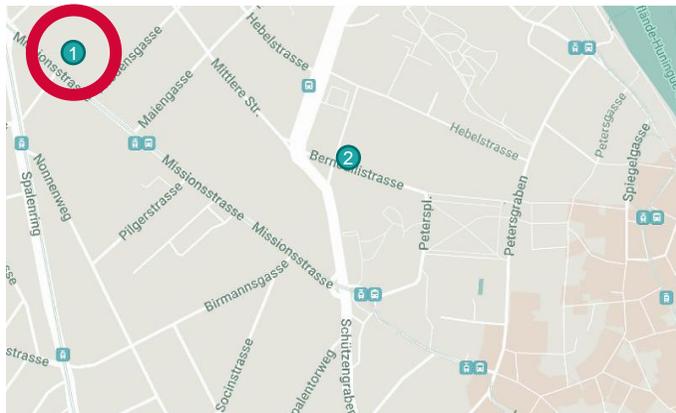
<https://ibmb.unibas.ch/en/public-outreach/projects-to-the-public/animal-and-plant-genetic-engineering/>



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25.03.2026

Enjoy presentations, a panel discussion, and an interactive workshop with key scholars and stakeholders.

Free coffee and lunch included!

79  
NRP

Advancing 3R  
National Research Programme

84  
NRP

Plant Breeding Innovation  
National Research Programme



Swiss National Science Foundation

# Plant-Animal Ethics Spring School

## Balancing Interests in the Regulation of Animal and Plant Genetic Engineering

This event provides a platform for discussion and exchange on political, scientific, and ethical issues related to genetic engineering in animals and plants. Organised by research teams within the Swiss National Research Programmes 84 NRP 84 (Plant Breeding Innovation) and NRP 79 (Advancing 3R), the event brings together participants and speakers from diverse backgrounds to discuss the balancing of interests at play in plant and animal research.

In the morning, invited speakers will present different perspectives on the challenges of animal and plant genetic engineering, considering scientific, ethical, and policy aspects. A panel discussion will then bring the speakers together to reflect on shared questions and differing viewpoints.

In the afternoon, participants will have the opportunity to join an interactive workshop that builds on the morning's discussions, allowing them to engage directly with the speakers, share ideas, and consider how diverse interests are addressed and balanced in the regulation of genetic modification in animals and plants.

# Program – Wednesday 25.03.2026

08:45	Registration and coffee
09:15	Introduction
09:30	<b>Prof. Dr. Sebastian Soyk</b> , University of Lausanne (CH) <i>Plant Genome Editing: Towards New Horizons in Crop Breeding?</i>
09:50	<b>Claire Robinson</b> , GMWatch (UK) <i>Genetically modified plants and animals: Protecting public health, the environment, and animals</i>
10:10	<b>Dr. Martin Wasmer/ Dr. Christoph Lüthi</b> , Federal Office for the Environment <i>New Plant Breeding Technologies: Overview of the History and Status of Regulatory Work in Switzerland</i>
10:30	Coffee Break
10:50	<b>Dr. med. vet. Otto Maissen</b> , Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office <i>Incorporation into Legislation and Implementation of Balancing Interests</i>
11:10	<b>Dr. iur. Vanessa Gerritsen</b> , Stiftung für das Tier im Recht (CH) <i>Balancing of Interests in the Process of Authorisation of Animal Experiments</i>
11:30	<b>Dr. Samuel Camenzind</b> , University of Vienna (AU) <i>Neither Plant nor Beast: Implications of Pain-Free Animals for the Balancing of Interests in the Swiss Animal Welfare Act.</i>
11:50	<b>Panel Discussion:</b> Prof. Dr. Sebastian Soyk, Claire Robinson, Dr. Martin Wasmer/ Dr. Christoph Lüthi, Dr. Samuel Camenzind, Dr. iur. Vanessa Gerritsen, Dr. med. vet. Otto Maissen
12:20	Lunch Break
14:00	Workshop
15:00	Coffee Break
15:20	Feedback in plenum
16:00	Closing