

## UNESCO CHAIR/UNITWIN NETWORK PROGRESS REPORT FORM

<b>Title of the Chair/Network:</b>	UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights. Rome. Italy
<b>Host Institution:</b>	Università Europea di Roma and Ateneo Pontificio Regina Apostolorum
<b>Date of establishment of Chair/Network:</b> <i>(mm, yyyy)</i>	July 7, 2009
<b>Period of activity under report:</b> <i>(mm, yyyy - mm, yyyy)</i>	October, 2012 – June, 2014
<b>Report established by:</b> <i>(name, position)</i>	Prof. Alberto Garcia JD, Chairholder

To be returned by electronic mail to both: [unitwin@unesco.org](mailto:unitwin@unesco.org) and [i.nichanian@unesco.org](mailto:i.nichanian@unesco.org)

Or by mail to UNESCO, Division for Teacher Development and Higher Education,

Section for Higher Education

7, place Fontenoy – 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

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### 1. Executive Summary:

*Major outcomes, results and impact of the Chair, including on national policies, in relation to its objectives as stated in Article 2 of the Chair Agreement (between the Institution and UNESCO)*  
(Not exceeding 300 words)

Some of the outcomes and results related to our objective of promoting an integrated system of research, training, information and documentation on bioethics and human rights are the following:

- . Improvement of communication regarding the project of the UNESCO Chair, its mission, and its activities within the organization and to the public (using our internet site: [www.unescobiochair.org](http://www.unescobiochair.org) and periodical newsletters)
- . Design, launching and consolidation of academic programs and activities in collaboration with our UNITWIN partners in Mexico and Angola.
- . Strengthening of Neurobioethics Research Group (ongoing monthly meetings)
- . Continuation of a forum of diverse bioethics experts through the organization of our 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Bioethics, Multiculturalism and Religion in Hong Kong (Dec 2013), delivering a framework to guide the application of bioethical principles with regards to various religious traditions. Preparation of 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on the Principles of Social Responsibility and Health in collaboration with Anahuac University in Mexico City (Nov 2014)
- . Innovative involvement of artistic community in bioethics issues through the organization of our 2<sup>nd</sup> International Bioethics Art Competition focusing on cultural diversity and the protection of future generations (May 2013) and preparation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the competition.

. Increased interest and involvement of new scholars and students from our host institutions (UER-APRA) some of them volunteering as fellows and interns, making possible the consolidation and development of our activities.

## **2) Activities:**

*Overview of activities undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period*

### **a) Education/Training/Research**

*(key education programs and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)*

<p><b>i) Education (leading to certificate)</b></p>	<p>- International Summer Course on “Bioethics at the Crossroads of Faith, Reason, and Science” (Rome, July 1-14, 2013). Target: graduated medical professionals, lawyers, philosophers, professors, journalists and social workers. International coverage.</p>
<p><b>ii) Training (short term)</b></p>	<p>- Diploma: “Bioethics Diploma, Universidad Anahuac” Mayab, Mérida, Yucatán. Target: graduated medical professionals, lawyers, philosophers, journalists and social workers. Local and regional coverage.</p>

### **a) Education/Training/Research**

*(key education programs and training delivered and research undertaken by the Chair during the reporting period, target group and geographical coverage)*

<p><b>iii) Research</b></p>	<p><b>NEUROBIOETHICS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Neurobioethics Group Meeting and Seminar: “Mind and Consciousness: phenomenology, neuroscience and psychotherapy,” Professor Angela Ales Bello, Professor Patricia Manganaro, Doctor Alberto Passerini, Rome, December 14, 2012</li>   <li>- Neurobioethics Group Meeting, Rome, September 27, 2013</li>   <li>- Neurobioethics Group Meeting: “Neurobioetica e Mass Media” (Neurobioethics and Mass Media), Rome, October 25, 2013</li>   <li>- Seminar and Neurobioethics Group Meeting: “Il potenziamento cognitivo” (Cognitive development), Doctor Andrei Hrisman and Professor Paolo Benanti, Rome, November 29, 2013</li>   <li>- Seminar: “EVA: film discussione” (EVA: film discussion), Rome, January 24, 2014</li>   <li>- Neurobioethics Group Meeting: “Conscience and Consciousness,” Deacon Robert Hesse, PhD, Rome, February 21, 2014</li>   <li>- Seminar: “Memory and Alzheimer’s Disease,” Rome, March 13, 2014</li>   <li>- Seminar about modern neuroscience and the social and political implications and visit to Neurological Center of Latium, Rome, March 29, 2014</li>   <li>- Neurobioethics Group Meeting: “Cognizione motoria, cognizione sociale ed empatia: il ruolo dei neuroni specchio nella comprensione dell’azione, dell’intenzionalità e del vissuto altrui” (Motor cognition, social cognition and empathy: the rule of neurons reflecting the comprehension of actions, intentions, and other people’s experiences), Professor Luca Casartelli, Rome, April 11, 2014</li> </ul>
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## **b) Conferences/Meetings**

*(key conferences and meetings organized by the Chair or to which its Chairholder contributed)*

### **i) Key conferences and workshops hosted by the Chair**

#### **BIOETHICS MULTICULTURALISM AND RELIGION:**

- International Workshop: "Religious perspectives on bioethics and human rights".

The workshop, held in Hong Kong from Dec 3-5, addressed the relationship between universal human rights and cultural diversity in life sciences. Experts hailed from seven world religions—Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Daoism. This was a follow-up to similar conferences held in Jerusalem and Rome, also organized by the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights.

### **ii) Other conferences/organizational activities undertaken by the Chairholder**

- UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights joined Mexico's National Academy of Bioethics to hold 8<sup>th</sup> annual International Congress on Clinical Practice of Bioethics at Anahuac University, Mexico City, December 6-8, 2012

### **iii) A selection of conference presentations by the Chairholder and other colleagues**

- Lecture: "Global Bioethics in a Culturally Diverse World," Prof. Alberto Garcia, Houston, August 29, 2013

- Lecture Series: "Where will this century's most pressing questions take you?," Prof. Alberto Garcia, Atlanta, September 3-6, 2013

- Prof. Joseph Tham, Fellow of the UNESCO Chair, spoke about the doctor-patient relationship in a conference on "SARS epidemic: ethical reflection and prospects," Hong Kong, September 7, 2013

- Prof. Alberto Carrara, Fellow of the UNESCO Chair, participated in the First International Congress Advances in Clinical Neurosciences and Psychiatry: Brain and Mind in Cuba and delivered a lecture titled: "Neurobioethics and human person," La Habana, November 18-20, 2013

- Prof. Joseph Tham, Fellow of the UNESCO Chair, gave lectures to students pursuing a diploma in bioethics with the Caritas Bianchi Institute of Higher Studies, Hong Kong, January-February, 2014

- Prof. Joseph Tham, Fellow of the UNESCO Chair, directed an intensive bioethics course in the Holy Spirit Seminary, Hong Kong, January-February, 2014

- Prof. Joseph Tham, Fellow of the UNESCO Chair, spoke to the Harvard Club of Hong Kong, "Is the Cost of Healthcare Sustainable? The dilemma of technology in extending lifespan," Hong Kong, April 25, 2014

**c) Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships**

(principal exchanges/partnerships between the Chair and other institutions including UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks)

- University Agostinho Neto, Luanda, Angola
- University Anahuac Sur, Mexico City, Mexico
- University Anahuac Mayab, Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico
- University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA
- University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX, USA
- University of St. Thomas, Burkina Fasso

**d) Publications/Multimedia Materials**

(major publications and teaching/learning materials)

Please tick relevant fields of output and indicate volume of output:

	[tick]	[no.]
<b>Books</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Books (edited)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Books (chapters)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Monographs</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Research Reports</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Journal Articles (refereed)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Conference Proceedings</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Occasional Papers</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Teaching/Learning Materials</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Multimedia Materials (CD-Rom)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Multimedia Materials (Video)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Multimedia Materials (Other)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Give details of major publications and materials including full citations.

**i) Theses****ii) Publications**

Mario Palmaro, La bellezza e la verità, Studia Bioethica, Vol 5, No 1-2 (2012)

José Luis del Barco, El impenetrable enigma de la belleza, Studia Bioethica, Vol 5, No 1-2 (2012)

Pietro Ramellini, Tra etica ed estetica: il potere generative dei classici, Studia Bioethica, Vol 5, No 1-2 (2012)

Joseph Tham, L.C., The Ugliness of "Abortion Art," Studia Bioethica, Vol 5, No 1-2 (2012)

Javier Barraca, Belleza y corporeidad humana: la llamada de la luz de la persona a la virtud, Studia

Martha Tarasco Michel- José Enrique Gómez Alvarez, Comunicar la Bioética Personalista con la categoría de Belleza, Studia Bioethica, Vol 5, No 1-2 (2012)

Alex Yeung, L.C., Ethics and Art: An Essay on a Gilsonian Theme, Studia Bioethica, Vol 5, No 1-2 (2012)

Juan Gabriel Ascencio, L.C., L'arte e l'etica in Romano Guardini, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 5, No 1-2 (2012)

Yvonne Denbina, UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights: 2010 Bioethics Art Competition, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 5, No 1-2 (2012)

Alice Ramos, The Rediscovery of Moral Beauty, Truth and Hope: Awakening the Moral and the Religious Sense, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 5, No 1-2 (2012)

Carmelo Pandolfi, Suggestioni Bonaventuriane intorno alla Bellezza e indicazioni Etiche, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 5, No 1-2 (2012)

Angela Ales Bello, ...E la coscienza?, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 5, No 3 (2012)

Alberto Carrara, Coscienza o coscienze? Aspetti antropologici e risvolti etici della ricerca neuroscientifica sugli stati di coscienza, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 5, No 3 (2012)

Paola Ciadamidaro, Coscienza o coscienze? Se la coscienza è malata: Il coma e lo stato vegetativo, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 5, No 3 (2012)

Riccardo Fesce, Approccio neurobiologico alla questione della coscienza, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 5, No 3 (2012)

Flavia Valtorta, Coscienza primaria, coscienza di ordine superiore e ritrascrizione dell'esperienza: un approccio psicodinamico, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 5, No 3 (2012)

Alberto Passerini, Una radice profonda: esperienza immaginativa della coscienza, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 5, No 3 (2012)

Pedro Barrajon, L.C., L'anima e la neurobioetica, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Fernando Fabó, L.C., Metafisica dell'intelligenza e della volontà a confronto con le neuroscienze, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Alberto Carrara, L.C., Neuroscienze e libertà: un'introduzione, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Stefano Semplici, Dalla neuroscienze alla neuroetica, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Paola Ciadamidaro, Neurobioetica dei gravi disturbi della coscienza e stato vegetativo, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Maria Luisa Pulito, Neurobioetica delle dipendenze, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Maria Luisa Pulito, Neurobioetica del disturbo da stress post traumatico, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Michele Farisco, Antropologia del potenziamento, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Paolo Benanti, Technologie dell'*enhancement* e il *cyborg*, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Chiara Ariano, il neuro-diritto: una riflessione, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Franco Baccarini, Neuroscienze e Cinema. Neuroscienze e relative questioni etiche applicate al

prodotto cinematografico, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Alberto Carrara, L.C.- Alberto Passerini- Alessandra Pandolfi, Neuroteologia e Neuromistica: l'esperienza umana del "Trascendente" alla luce della Neuroetica e della Psicoterapia contemporanea (prima parte), *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 1 (2013)

Vincenzo Paglia, L'anno della fede e la bioetica, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Joseph Tham, L.C., A response to Irreligious Bioethics, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Michael Baggot, L.C., Are Science and Faith in conflict? From Galileo and Darwin to current bioethical debates, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Fernando Lorenzo Rego, Conocer la verdad significa no mezclar las esferas de conocimientos, *Studia Bioethics*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Evandro Agazzi, L'ateismo e la scienza, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Pietro Ramellini, Life: Science, Philosophy, Theology, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Giuseppe Ditolve, La questione dell'evoluzione e dell'uomo: fede e scienza in dialogo, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Sergio Sannino, Come parlare di "anima" nella filosofia, nella teologia e nella scienza. L'evoluzione del significato dell'anima umana, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Fernando Fabó, L.C., Libertà e responsabilità un approccio fenomenologico, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Daniele Tortoreto, Legge morale naturale e diritto, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Gian Luigi Colacino, Il magistero della Chiesa e la Bioetica, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Massimo Losito, Tecnoscienza e tecnoetica Riscoperta della positività antropologica, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Alberto Carrara, L.C., Neuroetica: ponte tra Bioetica, filosofia e natura, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Francisco Ballesta, L.C., Problematiche bioetiche sollevate dalle manipolazioni genetiche, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 6, No 2-3 (2013)

Laura Palazzani, La prospettiva religiosa cristiana-cattolica: diritto umani, pluralism culturale e bioetica, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 7, No 1 (2014)

David Heyd, Between Humaneness and Human Rights. A Jewish Perspective on Modern Bioethics, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 7, No 1 (2014)

Ellen Zhang, On Human Rights and Freedom in Bioethics: A Philosophical Inquiry in Light of Buddhism, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 7, No 1 (2014)

Prakash Desai, The language of rights is alien to Hindu religion, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 7, No 1 (2014)

Martha Tarasco, Hinduismo y derechos humanos, *Studia Bioethica*, Vol 7, No 1 (2014)

Science and Faith, 21mo Secolo, No 10 (2012)

The Italian Journal, 21mo Secolo, collaborated with the Master in Science and Faith of Regina Apostolorum University to publish this special issue dedicated to Neurobioethics. Many contributions to the issue were from members of the Neurobioethics group.

Joseph Tham- Alberto Garcia- Gonzalo Miranda, Religious Perspective on Human Vulnerability in Bioethics, *Advancing Global Bioethics*, ISBN 978-94-017-8735-2, Vol 2, Ed 2 (2014)

The book, published by Springer, consists of a collection of papers assembled from the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on Human Vulnerability in Rome and delves deeper into the issues listed in the 2005 UNESCO Declaration in Bioethics and Human Rights. This book is the first of its kind because it uses a comprehensive religious perspective to analyze vulnerability and the meaning of vulnerability with the advancement of biomedicine. Included in the book are papers from bioethics experts from six major world religions—Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. The UNESCO Chair on Bioethics and Human Rights has been working to strengthen the principle of human vulnerability and personal integrity, and this book is an integral part in the progress of this initiative.

### e) Cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters, Field Offices

- Collaboration with UNESCO Italian Commission activities.

### f) Other

*(any other activities to report)*

BIOETHICS GLOBAL ART:

- Global Art Competition on Human Vulnerability

A most unusual merging of disciplines, the competition's theme centered around love, compassion, and care and the impact of life science on present and future generations, as defined in articles 12 and 18 of the UNESCO Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. 140 submissions were received from 17 countries by 115 artists. An international expert panel of ten judges was charged with choosing the winners. The official website of the competition is [www.bioethicsart.org](http://www.bioethicsart.org). The five winners for each of the three categories can be seen here and also in the catalogue that was published.

The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights Global Art Competition exhibited 15 winners from 5 countries in Hong Kong (Dec 3-Dec 10) and has upcoming exhibitions in New York, Rome, Mexico City, and Houston.

- Documentary "Beautiful Faces": [www.beautifulfacesfilm.com](http://www.beautifulfacesfilm.com)

"Beautiful Faces" introduces us to the fascinating work of a medical group directed by Dr. Fernando Ortiz Monasterio at Dr. Manuel Gea González Hospital in Mexico City's Tlalpan district. Dr. Ortiz Monasterio founded the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Unit at the hospital and explains that it is "the most exciting clinic in the world, the only place [he wants] to be." His exemplary talent, compassion, and principles provide a source of inspiration for both his colleagues and patients. He



has demonstrated that even the poorest people deserve to express their fundamental human right to quality medical care.

The documentary illustrates this world from the eyes of these children and their families. We are able to follow their struggles and triumphs while watching a community of caregivers and receivers come together. Dr. Ortiz Monasterio and his interdisciplinary team of dedicated doctors display their passion and commitment to helping others. We also meet the internationally known Dr. Kenneth Salyer, founder of the World Craniofacial Foundation, and other talented specialists dedicated to this extraordinary cause. Together, they are developing an incredible mission in Mexico City.

“Beautiful Faces” is a marvelous Russell Martin and Alvera de León production that inspires hope in us all. The UNESCO Chair on Bioethics and Human Rights is happy to have collaborated on the documentary production and is sponsoring the project.

The distinguished Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival hosted the world premiere of “Beautiful Faces” in 2012. Since then it has premiered at the Bergen International Film Festival in Norway in October 2012. It also was presented the Silver Palm Award at the Mexico International Film Festival in 2012, was recognized at the Hola Mexico Film Festival in 2013, and received the Audience Award at the Durango Film Festival in 2014.

#### CODE OF RESEARCH ETHICS

In accordance with the mission of creating an appropriate framework to guide the implementation of ethical principles, Professor Alberto Garcia, Director of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights with its headquarter in Rome, Italy, has signed a document that guarantees an International Code of Ethics. This statement was taken up by two leading European research centers in adult stem cells: ITERA and ITERM. Both ITERM (Institute of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine) and ITERA (International Tissue Engineering Research Association) have proposed this international Code of Ethics for all institutions that are part of those agencies. This Code is in line with the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights of UNESCO (2006).

The signatories are ITERA's President, Prof. Albert Ramon and Prof. Thomas Otto of ITERM.

**3. Future Plans and Development Prospects:**

*Outline of action plan for the next biennium and short/medium and long-term development prospects. Please do not hesitate to refer to difficulties that the Chair has experienced*  
(Not exceeding 300 words)

Consistently with our mission and strategic objectives we'll intend to accomplish in the next biennium the following action plan:

1. To develop academic programs already opened in UNITWIN partners institutions (Mexico and Angola).
2. To strength cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters
3. To consolidate our Neurobioethics Study Group by increasing participants and publications (journals and books)
4. To consolidate and develop our forum of diverse bioethics thoughts leaders "Bioethics, Multiculturalism and Religion" (Mexico 2014, Paris 2015). To develop the publications related to the topics we deal within them, intended to deliver in a framework to guide the application of bioethical principles in a global and multicultural environment.
5. To consolidate and develop our Bioethics Art Competition enlarging the number of artists involved in our painting and photography contest and opening to new artistic areas (documentaries and films).
6. To consolidate Bioethics and Ecology area through seminars and publications.
7. To Inform & enlighten ethical, legal and public opinion, decisions and actions relative to medicine, life sciences and human rights and responsibilities through a consistent communication plan.

**Appendix:****1) Human Resources**

Prof. Alberto García, *Chairholder*  
Prof. Joseph Tham, *Fellow*  
Prof. Gonzalo Miranda, *Fellow*  
Prof. Alberto Carrara, *Fellow*  
Prof. Pietro Ramellini, *Fellow*  
Mrs. Claudia Ruiz Sotomayor, *Scholar Research*

Mr. Michael Gannon, *Executive Director USA*  
Mr. Fernando Lorenzo, *Executive Director, Spain*  
Mr. Dane Kane, *Development Officer USA*  
Mr. Michael Baggot, *Correspondent*

Cyntia Muñoz, *Intern*  
Angela Lane, *Intern*  
Nicolò Corsi, *Intern*  
Christina Senger, *Intern*  
Bogi Sztancs, *Intern*

Most of our scholars and staff members are volunteers and receive no economic compensation for their collaboration. This makes their work specially valuable and stimulating, creating a nice atmosphere of lively university community.