



Maastricht University



Research Centre
for Policy Analysis
and Studies of Technologies

**Research Centre for Policy Analysis and Studies of Technologies
(Tomsk State University, Russian Federation)**

**Department of Health, Ethics and Society
(Maastricht University, The Netherlands)**

with the support from The Open Society Foundations

The International Conference Social Sciences & Medical Innovations

15—17 May 2014, Tomsk

Innovations in medicine and public health – genetic technologies, e-health, monitoring technologies, etc. – are commonly presented as key to improving health, wellbeing and quality of life as well as to decreasing the costs of health care. However, new medical and health care technologies often are not implemented in practice as is promised, innovations raise new moral and social issues and an “implementation gap” becomes a challenge. These observations pose multiple questions. How are innovations in medicine and health care actually developed and how is the relationship between innovations and everyday practices mediated? How can we understand the so called “implementation gap” and how can medical and health care innovations become attuned to the needs and concerns of different people in various contexts? How are medical innovations agendas shaped and what kinds of governance processes are, and should be involved? How do rapid scientific advances and new technologies engage with issues of public participation and accountability?

Social sciences play a central role in analyzing medical and public health innovations dynamics and understanding corresponding challenges. This conference aims to explore the complexity of innovation processes in medicine and health care from a perspective of social sciences, including science and technology studies (STS), medical anthropology and sociology of biomedicine. It considers medical innovations on different levels (from bedside to national health systems and global programs) and of different kinds (from pharmaceuticals, devices, procedures, to delivery methods and organizational structures). The conference also aims at mapping the emergent field of social studies of medical innovations in the post-Soviet region, establishing novel connections between scholars working on this topic globally, and stimulating mutual interaction and engagement between social and biomedical scientists, and biomedical and health professionals and policy makers.

Details of the Conference

The Conference will take place on **May 15—17, 2014**, at the Research Centre for Policy Analysis and Studies of Technologies, Tomsk, Russia. The Conference is organized as a collaborative endeavor between Maastricht University; the Netherlands and Tomsk State University; Russian Federation.

Language of the Conference: English.

The Conference will involve:

- Key-Note lectures by **Klasien Horstman** (Professor of the Philosophy of Public Health, Leader of the Research Programme Health, Ethics and Society; Maastricht University) and **Jessica Mesman** (Associate Professor at the Department of Technology and Society Studies; Maastricht University); followed by discussion sessions with professionals and academics from various fields.
- Conference sessions covering key topics, including Co-production of Science and Society; Innovation Design and Implementation; Innovation Governance; Innovation, Culture and Gender.
- Master-classes on “**Doing social science research in medicine and health**” by **Nora Engel** (Assistant Professor of Global Health, Department of Health, Ethics and Society; Maastricht University) and **Anja Krumeich** (Associate Professor of Global Health, Department of Health, Ethics and Society; Maastricht University)

Practical Information:

Please send your abstract by the **20th of February, 2014**, to the conference organizers: medicalinnovations2014@gmail.com

Abstracts submissions should be limited to 600 words (including a short CV of 100 words). The title of the paper should be limited to 10 words. To assist the program chair to group the papers into the sessions, please indicate to which main topic your paper is related. In case it doesn't fit any of the main topics please add three keywords. We plan to invite Conference participants to publish their chapters in an edited volume.

There are a limited number of travel and accommodation grants available for those unable to fund themselves entirely provided by Open Society Foundations. If you wish to apply for funding please provide a budget sheet and corresponding justification.

For more information, please, visit website of the Research Centre for Policy Analysis and Studies of Technologies: <http://en.past-centre.ru/call-conference-medical-innovations/> and website of the Department of Health, Ethics and Society of Maastricht University: <http://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/web/Institutes/FHML/CAPHRI/DepartmentsCAPHRI/HealthEthicsSociety/HESSymposia1.htm>