International Journal of Recent Research and Review, Vol. XVIII, Issue 1, March 2025
ISSN 2277 – 8322

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

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Abstract- Artificial intelligence is the ability of any machine or computer program to think, learn, and act. Aside from the area of computers, artificial intelligence is frequently applied in other fields, such as medicine. Combining AI's skills with the promise of biotechnology opens up new options for advancements in genetic engineering, medical diagnostics, and pharmaceutical development. AI algorithms can analyze more datasets, make predictions, and enable more accurate and efficient biotechnology research. The biotech industry has the potential to be totally transformed by big data and data analytics. All biological discoveries have generated fresh scientific and technical achievements, resulting in technological advancements in biologics manufacturing. In biotech, AI is used in robotics, molecular design, replacements, and biopolymers.

Keywords- Artificial Intelligence (AI), Role of AI in Biotechnology

I. INTRODUCTION

The bioscience and biotech industries have advanced significantly over the past few years because of extensive progress in sequence. For creating an intelligent computing system, AI-based algorithms can efficiently store and process massive amounts of unstructured, raw data, making them accessible for speedy extraction. Even the brightest brains, like Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking, are willing to embrace its limitless power. The bioscience and biotech industries have advanced significantly over the past few years because of extensive progress in sequence. For creating an intelligent computing system, AI-based algorithms can efficiently store and process massive amounts of unstructured, raw data, making them accessible for speedy extraction. Even the brightest brains, like Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking, are willing to embrace its limitless power. A small number of companies used artificial intelligence to manage the biotech industry. Their management values efficiency above time-consuming methods like manual picture creation and traditional testing for gauging performance. However, Artificial Neural Networks provide AI the ability to somewhat emulate the human system, expanding the limits of computation. Due to a similar change of biotech data, AI&ML (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning) have begun to make their way into the biotech sector. Today, biology can be programmed.

Although the United States now leads the field of biotechnology, China is aggressively pursuing American dominance and is making significant investments in science and technology. China is building one of the largest genomic databases and has launched the world's largest precision medicine effort.

II. AI IN AGRICULTURE BIOTECHNOLOGY

Agriculture biotechnology is used to generate genetically modified plants to increase crop yield or give current plants new features. Tissue culture, genetic engineering, molecular reproduction, and conventional plant breeding are all included.

Biotechnology companies are currently developing and configuring autonomous robots that undertake crucial agricultural tasks, such as harvesting crops faster than humans, using advanced manufacturing and machine learning technologies. Algorithms for computer vision and deep learning are utilized to process and examine the data that drones have collected. The condition of the soil and plants is thereby monitored.

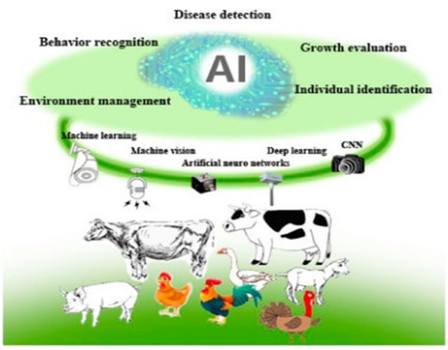
III. AI IN MEDICAL BIOLOGY

By creating medicines and antibiotics from living cells, medical biotechnology helps to improve human health. To improve the production of crucial and advantageous features, it also incorporates DNA research and genetically modified cells.

With the use of gene editing, it is now simpler to alter the DNA sequence of living things, enabling more individualized gene expression. The two main applications of AI in gene editing are the detection of harmful genes and the treatment of disease.

To make it easier to manufacture pharmaceuticals, analyse diverse chemicals chemically, sequence genomes, and perform other kinds of biological activities, strong computerized tools are needed. This is made possible by AI because all processes are entirely automated and don't require any human involvement. This aids biologists in the production of both medicines and vaccines. They have recently been used in a variety of genomic manipulation investigations and have been demonstrated to be capable of stable integration of exogenous DNA.

IV. AI IN ANIMAL BIOTECHNOLOGY



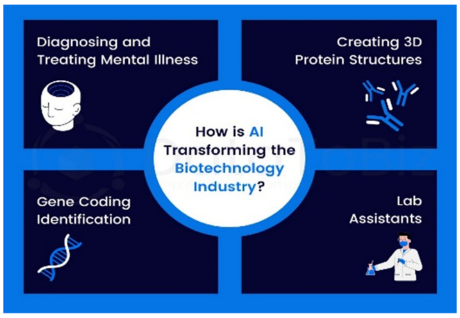
Animals are genetically engineered using cellular biological processes to increase their sustainability for use in agriculture, industry, and medicine. As part of the modern biotechnology revolution, embryo engineering is now being used in farm animal reproduction. Animal biotechnology includes techniques including cloning, genetic mapping, embryo transfer, artificial insemination, and invitro fertilization. Additionally, it is helpful in selective breeding, which involves mating animals with the aim of producing offspring with the same traits.

V. AI IN BIO INFORMATICS

Using computer technology to gather, store, analyse, and share biological data and information, such as DNA and amino acid sequences or annotations about those sequences, is known as bioinformatics. Using computer technology to gather, store, analyse, and share biological data and information, such as DNA and amino acid sequences or annotations about those sequences, is known as bioinformatics.

From the extensive data collection required for protein categorization, artificial intelligence and machine learning are employed in DNA sequencing. The design of gene editing studies can be improved, and their results can be predicted, by researchers using machine learning for bioinformatics. The development of ML and deep learning techniques is revolutionizing the area and allowing scientists to glean new knowledge from enormous amounts of biological data.

VI. AI IN INDUSTRIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

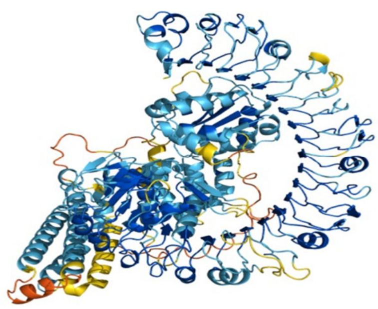


The goal of industrial biotechnology is to replace biopolymers that have been established in many domains such as automotive parts, fuel, fibers, novel chemicals, and the production process. Internet of Things, machine learning, and artificial intelligence Intelligent Practice analyses machines, forecasts endpoints, and repairs equipment, among other things, to deliver more efficient production and higher quality. Robots and machine learning augment and test the success of achieving the desired molecules.

VII. RADIOTHERAPY AND RADIOLOGY

Oncology is the broad term for radiotherapy. The use of high-energy radiation to harm cancer cells' DNA and eliminate their capacity to grow and divide is known as radiation therapy. Radiation treatment can be used to cure cancer, ease pain in cancer patients, and treat other illnesses. Algorithms allow computers to gain substantially more experience and retain data in far less time than humans. In 40 years, a radiologist will examine around 225,000 MRI/CT tests, whereas AI may begin with 225,000 scans to train itself and attain millions of scans in a relatively short amount of time.

VIII. ALPHAFOLD



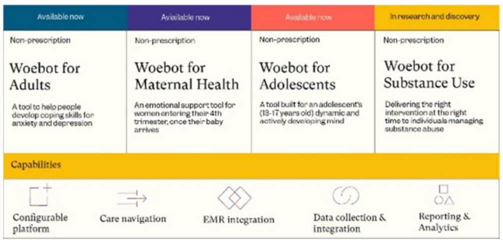
DeepMind's AlphaFold AI technology predicts a protein's 3D structure based on its amino acid sequence. It consistently produces accuracy comparable to the experiment. Artificial intelligence in structural biology includes molecular dynamics simulations and predictions of microbiota-human protein-protein interactions. We showcase AlphaFold's deep-learning-powered advances in protein structure prediction and their significant influence on the life sciences. At the same time, AlphaFold does not solve the decades-long protein folding problem or discover folding routes.

The models provided by AlphaFold do not account for conformational phenomena such as frustration and allostery, which are rooted in ensembles and modulated by their dynamic distributions.

IX. ENZYME ENGINEERING

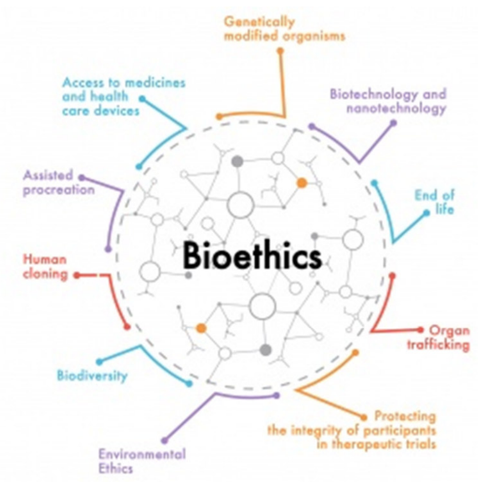
Enzyme engineering is the technique of modifying an enzyme's amino acid sequence to improve its efficiency or to create a new enzyme function. This method has emerged as a promising solution for overcoming the drawbacks of native enzymes as biocatalysts. Almac uses machine learning and deep learning to find similarities in data provided by enzyme engineering work packages and construct models that may be used to forecast changes to further improve the desired enzymatic properties.

X. BOTS AND CURE FOR MENTAL ILLNESSES



Woebot is one of numerous successful phone-based chatbots, some of which are geared specifically at mental health and others at providing entertainment, comfort, or sympathetic discussion. Today, millions of individuals communicate with programs and apps like Happily, which pushes users to "break old patterns," and Replica, an "A.I. companion" who is "always on your side," acting as a friend, mentor, or even a romantic partner. The worlds of psychiatry, therapy, computer science, and consumer technology are merging. We are increasingly calming ourselves with our devices, while programmers, psychiatrists, and startup founders create A.I. systems that analyse medical records and therapy sessions in the hopes of diagnosing, treating, and even predicting mental illness.

XI. BIOETHICS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY



Biotechnology fundamentally revolves around comprehending life and leveraging that understanding to enhance human well-being. It is widely regarded as a transformative force poised to elevate the quality of life in the 21st century. While it is undeniably rooted in scientific research and discovery, biotechnology is also deeply intertwined with ethical considerations. It inherently promotes a particular perspective on life defining certain actions, advancements, or outcomes as desirable and others as harmful or undesirable. This perspective shapes decision-making and societal views on what is ethically acceptable. Moreover, there is a reciprocal relationship where ethical principles shape biotechnological practices, just as developments in biotechnology. At times, the connection between biotechnology and ethics is framed as one of opposition. It can seem as though ethics only comes into play when someone needs to challenge or criticize what others are doing. This perception is somewhat understandable, given that ethical discussions often involve disagreement, debate, and controversy.

However, ethics is just as vital when there is broad agreement that a particular path is positive and worthwhile. In such cases, the ethical foundation may be less visible, yet still essential. For instance, there was no major ethical dispute about whether scientists should seek a cure for cancer. The choice to pursue this goal stemmed from a shared belief that doing so was morally right. Ethics is not only about questioning actions—it also plays a crucial role in recognizing and affirming what is good and commendable.

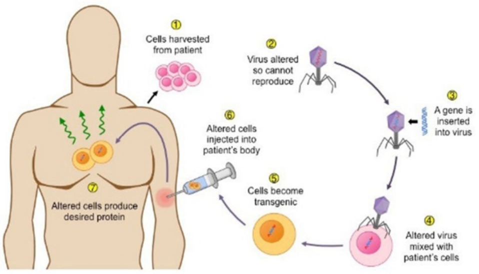
The dedication, innovation, and resources invested in improving medical treatments reflect a deeply ethical commitment to alleviating human suffering.

At the same time, it’s essential to examine the ethical implications that accompany these advancements. What costs—social, emotional, or economic—are we willing to accept in the pursuit of progress? In some cases, it appears that treatments are pursued regardless of the price or potential consequences. Assisted human reproduction, for instance, remains a highly debated area where efforts to address infertility often raise complex ethical questions.

Even in less contentious areas, such as treatments for heart disease or cancer, medical progress has created high public expectations that cures should be readily available. This can lead to concerns about the increasing dominance of technology in medicine, potentially at the expense of human connection and compassionate care. Additionally, issues of justice arise—particularly regarding how equitably the benefits of biotechnology are shared, both within nations and across global populations.

XII. THE DARKER SIDE

Even the noble aim of reducing human suffering does not justify the uncritical acceptance of all biotechnological advances. Throughout history, human ingenuity and creativity have been admired for their ability to solve problems and improve lives. Yet, this same ingenuity can also give rise to unintended harm. The ancient Greek playwright Sophocles recognized this dual nature of human innovation. He praised humanity’s achievements in areas like travel, farming, and medicine, but also warned of the potential dangers such achievements could bring.



"Wondrous are many things, yet none more wondrous than humanity. Ingenious beyond measure, wielding invention that can serve both good and evil. When guided by justice and divine law, society thrives; but those who act dishonorably lose their place within it. This reflection captures the tension between the promise and peril of technology. The human ability to shape the world can lead to both progress and destruction—sometimes deliberately, sometimes unintentionally—which inevitably influences ethical perspectives on technological development.

Philosopher Hans Jonas, who fled Nazi Germany and later became a prominent thinker in the United States, dedicated much of his work to exploring the ethical dimensions of modern technology. He argued that today's technological capabilities present challenges that traditional ethical systems were never designed to handle. As he put it, "Modern technology has introduced actions of such novel scale, objects, and consequences that the framework of former ethics can no longer contain them" (Jonas, 1984, p. 6).

Biotechnology is a prime example of such transformative innovation. Its unprecedented scope and potential demand a rethinking of how we assess right and wrong. It doesn't just pose difficult ethical dilemmas—it introduces entirely new categories of moral questions that require fresh frameworks for analysis.

XIII. LIMITATIONS OF RIGHTS-BASED ETHICS

While rights-based ethical frameworks have significantly advanced human welfare, particularly by empowering vulnerable groups to advocate for fair treatment, they are not without limitations (O'Mathúna et al., 2005). One major criticism is their tendency toward individualism, where the emphasis shifts predominantly to personal rights. This can lead to ethical challenges, especially in contexts involving biotechnology and experimental treatments. Individuals may assert their right to access these innovations based on personal freedom or autonomy, even when such treatments are ethically controversial or lack proven effectiveness. For instance, someone might demand reproductive cloning as a right, yet this perspective may overlook broader societal and generational consequences. Since rights are usually granted only to existing individuals, such frameworks struggle to account for the interests of future people who cannot yet claim those rights.

Moreover, any rights-based system must determine who qualifies as a rights-holder. Recognizing rights involves assigning corresponding responsibilities to others to respect and uphold them. However, there is ongoing disagreement over the criteria for assigning rights. One common viewpoint holds that all humans are inherently entitled to basic rights. Still, this raises complex debates—such as whether rights begin at conception, birth, or another stage of development.

Advancements in biotechnology reveal significant shortcomings in a rights-based ethical approach. Instead of posing insurmountable challenges to ethical thinking, these developments highlight the need for an alternative ethical framework. Jonas and others emphasize that, in the face of new technological advancements, there should be less focus on human rights and entitlements, and more emphasis on human responsibility.

XIV. FUTURE CONSEQUENCES

Earlier forms of technology influenced human life but did not possess the capacity to alter human nature itself. Biotechnology, however, carries that potential—introducing the possibility of far-reaching and long-term effects. Anticipating these outcomes is often complex and uncertain, particularly in the field of genetic engineering. Modifying the human genome could have lasting impacts on countless future generations. Because genes interact in intricate ways, altering a single gene might unintentionally affect other genes or the proteins they produce. This concern has become even more significant with the recent discovery that the human genome contains fewer genes than scientists once believed.

Biotechnology's potential risks are not limited to its failures—its successes can also raise serious concerns. As technological advancements become more widespread, there is a growing tendency to perceive reality purely in material and controllable terms (Schuurman 2005, pp. 16–17). This mindset can lead to the belief that every challenge must have a technological solution. In healthcare, this has resulted in the medicalization of patients and the treatment of individuals as tools or means to an end. Such developments risk stripping away human dignity, making it easier to perceive certain people as less than fully human. In this way, technology can become self-perpetuating, generating ethical issues that run deeper than initially anticipated.

What sets biotechnology apart is its ability to create living organisms, unlike earlier technologies that were non-living and could be set aside if found ethically troubling. Now, biotechnology enables the development of life forms that may act independently of human control. As Jonas (2004, p. 570) noted, human creations are no longer merely metaphorically alive—they can literally take on life of their own. These living entities could evolve in unforeseen ways, potentially leading to consequences beyond our ability to predict or manage. Although such scenarios have not yet occurred with genetically modified bacteria, the possibility remains a serious ethical consideration.

These factors should encourage a deep respect for the wonder and complexity of nature. As human beings, our ability to fully grasp, influence, or steer natural processes is inherently constrained. This awareness ought to prompt careful reflection before engaging in the manipulation of life through biotechnology. Ideally, it would foster a mindset of prudence and restraint. However, in reality, the drive to be at the forefront of innovation often overrides such caution. In this context, the precautionary principle becomes especially vital—particularly when human experimentation is involved—serving as a safeguard against rushing into ethically uncertain territory.

XV. IMPACT ON HUMAN NATURE AND PERSONHOOD

No aspect of biotechnology more urgently demands thoughtful ethical consideration than its potential to alter human nature itself. While past technologies served primarily as tools that influenced human behavior and societal development, they left the essence of humanity untouched—humans remained the creators. Today, however, certain branches of biotechnology are shifting that dynamic, positioning humans not just as inventors, but as subjects of technological intervention. As Jonas (1984, p. 18) observed, humanity is now prepared "to make over the maker of all the rest." This transformative power to design and modify human life compels us to deeply examine what it truly means to be human and to reconsider the concept of human personhood. As noted by contemporary German philosopher Jürgen Habermas (2003, p. 13), this shift raises profound questions that cannot be ignored.

"As soon as adults begin to view the genetic traits of their children as customizable features shaped by personal preference, they impose a level of control over their genetically altered offspring that is more appropriate for objects than for human beings."
He goes on to argue that this kind of control "erases the distinction between persons and objects." Recent breakthroughs in areas like stem cell research and cloning have intensified debates surrounding the concept of human personhood. These conversations reveal a significant divide between opposing viewpoints. On one side, some regard embryos as "featureless bundles of cells" (Pearson 2002, p. 15), considering them human but not persons, and therefore permissible to use and discard in scientific research. On the other hand, critics argue that embryos deserve to be treated as persons, making it morally unacceptable to use them merely as tools for the benefit of others.

Personhood can be understood as an intrinsic quality that belongs to every human being, granting them certain fundamental rights and guiding how they should be treated ethically. This perspective serves to safeguard all individuals, particularly the most vulnerable, from harm and exploitation. In contrast, another view defines personhood based on specific developmental milestones or cognitive abilities. Under this model, only those who meet certain criteria are considered worthy of ethical protection. A serious concern with this conditional approach is that it often serves to legitimize the termination of those labeled as "human non-persons." What are the broader implications of treating human life as a commodity—something that can be altered or discarded at will? If we begin by justifying such treatment of embryos, might it pave the way for similar reasoning at more advanced stages of human development?

This ongoing debate highlights the challenges of shaping public policy when deeply divided segments of society hold opposing, and often irreconcilable, views on issues of profound moral significance. It also calls for reflection on how biotechnology influences our understanding of human nature. Leon Kass raises a critical question: what happens to us when we begin to see early human life as a resource to be harvested, used, and commodified? "The embryos are merely destroyed," he warns, "but we—their users—are at risk of corruption" (Kass 2002, p. 10). This conversation goes beyond legal rights; it reaches into the core of human dignity and what it means to act with moral integrity. It shifts the ethical focus from claiming rights to embracing responsibilities.

XVI. CENTRAL PLACE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Given the profound potential of biotechnology to influence human nature, it is essential that we move forward with great care. While this technology holds the promise of significant benefits, it also carries the risk of serious harm. Some dangers may emerge in the physical realm, through unforeseen side effects or consequences of its application. However, the risks are not limited to the physical alone—biotechnology may also have deep psychological, social, and ethical impacts. Just as inventions like cars and computers have reshaped human life and society, biotechnology has the power to alter our very understanding of what it means to be human.

With great power comes great responsibility—and biotechnology grants humanity unprecedented power. This power should serve as a reminder of our responsibility toward nature, the environment, all living beings, future generations, and the very essence of human nature and personhood. Fulfilling these responsibilities requires the cultivation of wisdom—a wisdom that can only emerge through careful ethical reflection before advancing specific biotechnological innovations. Yet, taking the time for such reflection often runs counter to the rapid pace of technological progress and the overconfidence in human intellect that can accompany it.

While these advancements offer great promise, they also carry the risk of altering, harming, or even eliminating certain species—including humanity itself. Making sound ethical choices in the face of such power demands profound wisdom. Yet, as Jonas (1984, p. 21) warns, this presents a deep dilemma: "It requires supreme wisdom—an impossible demand for humankind in general, because we lack that wisdom, and especially for modern society, which often denies the very existence of its foundation—objective value and truth. Ironically, we need wisdom most at the very moment we are least inclined to believe in it."

It is essential to dedicate time and resources to thoughtfully evaluate the ethical dimensions of emerging biotechnological advancements. Any proposed development must be assessed not only for its effect on the environment and ecosystems but also for its broader social, emotional, and spiritual consequences. When biotechnology turns its focus on human beings themselves, the need for caution becomes even more urgent. Without careful reflection, we risk reducing ourselves and others to mere biological components—stripping away the depth, dignity, and humanity that define us.

XVII. RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed system for the United States includes a series of safeguards for reviewing research proposals and publishing scientific findings, aiming to prevent misuse while supporting critical scientific advancement. The first and most essential safeguard is cultivating awareness within the scientific community about types of research that may pose ethical or security concerns, along with fostering a shared responsibility to manage such work responsibly. This voluntary self-regulation should be reinforced by formal evaluations conducted by existing oversight bodies—such as Institutional Biological Safety Committees or the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee—expanded to consider the risk of misuse as a key factor in approving or rejecting experiments. For research publication, we recommend building upon the initiative launched in February 2003 by editors of major scientific journals to strengthen review processes. Given that this framework combines both regulatory oversight and voluntary compliance—and touches on areas where life scientists may lack experience compared to other disciplines—we also propose the establishment of a National Science Advisory Board for Biodefense (NSABB). This board would provide expert guidance and oversight to both the scientific community and the government as this system of review takes shape.In formulating its recommendations, the Committee aimed to create a balanced approach—one that promotes vigilance and triggers concern when necessary, while avoiding unnecessary restrictions on the conduct, methods, and outcomes of life sciences research. The goal is to foster a culture of responsibility without hindering innovation. We believe that implementing such a system in the United States could also inspire similar responsible practices globally.

Recommendation 1: Raising Awareness in the Scientific Community
Promote education and awareness among researchers regarding the dual-use potential of biological research, encouraging them to recognize and responsibly manage experiments that may pose security or ethical risks.

Recommendation 2: Evaluation of Experimental Proposals
We recommend that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) expand the existing review framework used by the National Institutes of Health for recombinant DNA research. This enhanced system should include a structured review process specifically for seven categories of high-risk experiments—referred to as "Experiments of Concern"—that involve microbial agents and carry the potential for misuse. This added oversight will help ensure that such research is conducted responsibly

Recommendation 3: Oversight at the Publication Stage
We recommend that responsibility for reviewing the potential national security risks of published researchbe entrusted to the scientific community and scientific journals themselves. This self-governance approach would involve researchers and journal editors carefully evaluating the implications of their findings before publication, ensuring that any work with potential security risks is thoroughly assessed and with appropriate safeguards in place

Recommendation 4: Establishment of a National Science Advisory Board for Biodefense
We recommend that the Department of Health and Human Services establish a National Science Advisory Board for Biodefense (NSABB) to offer expert advice, guidance, and leadership in overseeing the review and oversight system we propose. This board would play a crucial role in ensuring that the review process is both effective and aligned with national security priorities.

Recommendation 5: Strengthening Protections Against Misuse
We recommend that the federal government ensure the protection of biological materials and the oversight of personnel working with these materials through the enforcement of existing legislation and regulations. This should be accompanied by periodic reviews conducted by the National Science Advisory Board for Biodefense (NSABB) to assess the effectiveness of these measures and make any necessary adjustments.

XVIII. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, biotechnology offers a powerful set of tools with the capacity to greatly enhance human well-being. However, it also introduces complex ethical challenges that cannot be overlooked. Navigating these opportunities and risks demands continuous ethical reflection, open public dialogue, and the establishment of thoughtful, transparent guidelines. As the field continues to evolve, it is essential that ethical responsibility remains at the forefront to ensure that biotechnological progress serves the greater good and upholds human dignity.

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