



The Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation
Department of Human Genetics and the
Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy



HUMAN GENETICS GRAND ROUNDS Distinguished Lecture Series



R. ALTA CHARO, J.D.

“Blasphemy, Biotechnology and Synthetic Life”

If the 19th century celebrated the power of science to invent, and the 20th century feared the power of science to destroy, what will mark the 21st century? One possibility is fear of the power of science to create, and specifically, to create new forms of life. From the 1980s advent of IVF to recent developments in genome editing, there has been a steady path toward what some might view as blasphemous research that usurps the proper role of a deity or of nature. What is the role of public and political opinion in regulating or even prohibiting such research and development?

R. Alta Charo (BA in biology, Harvard 1979; JD in law, Columbia 1982) is the Warren P. Knowles Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin. Professor Charo was a member of President Clinton’s National Bioethics Advisory Commission and President Obama’s HHS transition team, and served in government with the congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the US Agency for International Development, and the Food & Drug Administration. She also advises on ethical issues raised by new programs at US Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine where she co-chaired its committee drafting national guidelines for embryonic stem cell research, its committee drafting regulatory policy recommendations for governance of genome editing, and its Forum on Regenerative Medicine.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
MILLER SCHOOL
of MEDICINE



Tuesday, May 1, 2018 | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

**Biomedical Research Building (BRB)
3rd/4th Floor Atrium**

1501 NW 10th Avenue | Miami, Florida 33136

For additional information, contact the Human Genetics Office of Education & Training (dmclean@med.miami.edu)