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SmartHEALTH

Smart Integrated Biodiagnostic Systems for Healthcare

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D9.4 Announcement and planning for international symposium

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RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including Commission Services)	

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1. Introduction

A symposium of invited participants will be held at Newcastle University in the Spring of 2009. Participants will include invited members from the SmartHEALTH consortium together with a number of invited international experts from social science, ethics, law and other relevant subject areas. The meeting will be facilitated by Simon Woods and Fionagh Thomson (UNEW WP9).

2. Purpose of symposium

The aim of the symposium will be to provide a forum for open discussion around the ethical legal and social (ELSI) issues relevant to the SmartHEALTH programme in recognition that SmartHEALTH is a complex set of converging technologies that needs to be integrated into different healthcare systems within different European countries. Attendees will include SmartHEALTH partners and also relevant external experts.

Drawing upon the issues identified within the activities of WP9 this symposium will provide an opportunity for the SmartHEALTH consortium to:

- Clarify the nature of the specific ethical, legal and social issues associated with integrated biodiagnostic systems
- To create an open platform for a cross-disciplinary discussion
- Discursively explore possible responses to ELSIs
- Collate outcomes of the symposium and incorporate into the WP9 final report
- Disseminate relevant findings within the consortium

3. Planning Time-line

- August 2007 initial announcement of symposium on SmartHEALTH website
- January 2008 invite nominated representatives from SmartHEALTH consortium
- March 2008 identify relevant external experts and issue invitations
- June 2008 book venue and accommodation for symposium
- July 2008 potential publishers sought for collected essays
- October 2008 issue final confirmation of programme
- Spring 2009 Symposium held in Newcastle
- Symposium report issued to delegates for verification (3 weeks post event)
- Final report issued and disseminated through consortium network and website
- Collation and editing of collated essays for publication (contract permitting) by end of project