



The Ethics of Protocells: Moral and Social Implications of Creating Life in the Laboratory (Paperback)

By -

MIT Press Ltd, United States, 2009. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Experts explore the potential benefits, risks, and moral aspects of protocell technology, which creates simple forms of life from nonliving material. Teams of scientists around the world are racing to create protocells--microscopic, self-organizing entities that spontaneously assemble from simple organic and inorganic materials. The creation of fully autonomous protocells--a technology that can, for all intents and purposes, be considered literally alive--is only a matter of time. This book examines the pressing social and ethical issues raised by the creation of life in the laboratory. Protocells might offer great medical and social benefits and vast new economic opportunities, but they also pose potential risks and threaten cultural and moral norms against tampering with nature and playing God. The Ethics of Protocells offers a variety of perspectives on these concerns. After a brief survey of current protocell research (including the much-publicized top-down strategy of J. Craig Venter and Hamilton Smith, for which they have received multimillion dollar financing from the U.S. Department of Energy), the chapters treat risk, uncertainty, and precaution; lessons from recent history and related technologies; and ethics in a future...



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