The Future of Medicine
A panel discussion

Monday
October 5, 2015
7-9 pm
The Theater,
Vista del Sol Community Center

New diagnostic technologies promise to revolutionize the practice of medicine. Genetic sequencing promises to be able to detect diseases hidden in our DNA. Massive, parallel protein analyses promise to provide routine diagnostic information on billions of chemical compounds that travel in our bloodstream. The Apple Watch and other fitness devices promise to track our heart rhythms, exercise, food consumption, and numerous other aspects of daily behavior. Even our Internet search histories provide information about the health issues we worry about on a daily basis—and when aggregated create novel instruments for tracking disease prevalence in society as a whole. What do these new insights mean for the future of medicine? How will they change the relationships between doctors and patients, and between people and the healthcare system? Are the promises too good to be true? Will they create cultures of healthy living, new forms of routine medical surveillance, or both? Join us for a fascinating conversation with two of ASU’s leaders in thinking about the future of medicine.

Neil Woodbury
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Biodesign Institute, ASU

Neal Woodbury, PhD, is currently co-Director of the Center for Innovations in Medicine at the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University as well as a faculty associate in the Center for Single Molecule Biophysics. He is a Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and also works on programs to develop energy research in collaboration with the Global Institute of Sustainability. Dr. Woodbury was one of the conceptual founders of the Biodesign Institute and has served as the Director of the Center for BioOptical Nanotechnology, Deputy Director as well as the Chief Scientific Officer in the past. He coordinates multigroup efforts that address major problems in Health, Energy and National Security. For most of his career, he has studied the biophysical and spectroscopic properties of energy and electron transfer in photosynthetic pigments. Over the past ten years, he has also worked on high-throughput patterned chemical synthesis and the development of molecular libraries using such techniques.

Ben Hurlbut
School of Life Sciences and Center for Biology and Society, ASU

Dr. Hurlbut is trained as an historian of the modern biomedical and life sciences. His research lies at the intersection of bioethics, political theory and science and technology studies. He studies the historical development of approaches to governance of emerging technologies in the United States, focusing in particular on discourse, politics, and institutions of deliberation for contending with morally and technically complex problems. In particular, he has examined the history of the scientific, political and ethical debates around human embryo research in the United States. He examines the various settings in which ethical concerns over human embryo research were deliberated, from public ethics bodies to state level referenda, tracing how notions of democracy, religious and moral pluralism, and public reason were constructed in each setting. One purpose of his research is to bring historical and qualitative social science approaches to bear on normative problems in bioethics and political theory. Dr. Hurlbut received an A.B. in Classics from Stanford University, and a Ph.D. in the History of Science from Harvard University. He was a postdoctoral fellow in the Program on Science, Technology and Society in the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

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