Emerging technologies are not easily regulated: getting the regulatory environment right is a considerable challenge. Legal frameworks tend to lose connection with their technological targets; even when connected, laws are often relatively ineffective; and ethicists are unable to agree on the interpretation and application of respect for human rights and human dignity as the measure of regulatory legitimacy. At the same time, new technologies insinuate themselves into the regulatory environment as tools that promise greater effectiveness. In a context of rapid technological change coupled with deep regulatory uncertainty, it will be suggested that the priorities are to safeguard the integrity of the infrastructure for human life, to preserve the conditions in which communities with moral aspirations may flourish, and to encourage broader and more inclusive debates about the social licence to be given to modern technologies.

**Roger Brownsword**, who is a graduate of the London School of Economics, is Professor of Law at King’s College London, where he was the founding director of TELOS (a research centre that focuses on technology, ethics, law and society), an honorary professor at the University of Sheffield, and a visiting professor at Singapore Management University.

He has published more than a dozen books, including Rights, Regulation and the Technological Revolution (OUP, 2008), Regulating Technologies (Hart, 2008) (co-edited with Karen Yeung), and Law and the Technologies of the Twenty-First Century (co-authored with Morag Goodwin) (CUP, 2012); he is co-editor of the Cambridge Handbook on Human Dignity (CUP, 2014) and is currently co-editing the Oxford Handbook on Law, Regulation and Technology.

From 2004-2010, he was a member of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics; currently, he is Chair of the Ethics and Governance Council of UK Biobank, in addition to his memberships of international editorial and advisory boards in law and ethics, and of the international Law panel for the national research assessment conducted in Hong Kong in 2014.