

If only we could...



If only we could enhance our moral character just as we enhance our ability to think, play sport and fight disease.

If only we could be driven to create a better world.

A world where all citizens dedicate themselves to helping others. Where saving a child in Africa is as natural as saving your own child. Where people vote for the good of humanity, not just their hip pockets. Where leaders build a better future for us and for generations to follow.

Now we can.



The Government of Pan-Oceania

**Special Commission for
Saving Humanity and
Life on Earth**

RE: A report from the Pan-Oceanian President's Special Commission for Saving Humanity and Life on Earth

Dear Oceanians,

On the President's orders, we have assessed Proposition H26-3b: to adopt the embryo-based moral enhancement technology Virtumax™. Our assessment included detailed analysis of laboratory results and extensive consultation with experts.

Having reviewed all the available evidence about Virtumax™ and being convinced of its safety and effectiveness, we unreservedly recommend that Proposition H26-3b be signed and ratified.

Adoption of Virtumax™ brings Pan-Oceania in line with 85% of other governments worldwide, and is a bold gesture of supranational support for a secure and peaceful future.

P. H. Dunamis, Special Commissioner for Saving Humanity and Life on Earth

This is a work of fiction, intended for educational purposes.
Inspiration has been drawn from the following article:
Persson, I. and Savulescu, J. 2008. "The Perils of Cognitive Enhancement and the Urgent Imperative to Enhance the Moral Character of Humanity". *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 25 (3), pp. 162–177.


the
PHILOSOPHY ★ CLUB



The Government of Pan-Oceania

**Special Commission for
Saving Humanity and
Life on Earth**

**A better person
for a better world**



with

Virtumax™
embryo-based moral enhancement technology

Our world is in crisis.

The existential threats to humanity and to all life are legion:



Throughout history, humans have made great strides in technological development. Yet our moral capacities have scarcely evolved. We are dangerously lacking in altruism and fair-mindedness, and so tragically unable to meet the moral challenges of our times.

What is Virtumax™ ?

Virtumax™ is a revolutionary technology that alters the genetic structure of human embryos, resulting in newborns predisposed to developing moral traits. Embryos that receive Virtumax™ treatment will develop into individuals whose sense of altruism and fairness exceeds the current norm.

Virtumax™ treatment has been in development for almost a century, during which time it has been rigorously tested for efficacy and safety in over 1,000 clinical trials. In all the animal trials, populations thrived and individuals were seen to be friendlier and more content than those in the control groups. In the first nationwide human population trial (in Sweden), participants reported an increase in happiness and life satisfaction and a decrease in crime.



Why altruism?

Altruism is selfless concern for the wellbeing of others. Since the dawn of civilization, every great moral code – religious and secular – has acknowledged the centrality of altruism in human ethics.

Virtumax™ enhances altruism by predisposing people to more readily feel altruistic emotions, such as compassion and sympathy, whenever they encounter others in pain or suffering.

Why fairness?

Fairness is the quality of treating people as they deserve to be treated. A sense of fairness underpins justice, and is closely tied to emotions such as guilt for acting wrongly, pride for acting nobly, admiration for those who show moral courage and forgiveness for those who show remorse for their wrongdoings.

Virtumax™ enhances fairness by predisposing people to do favours for others, to reciprocate favours received, and to “return like for like” when dealing with those who fail to reciprocate favours.

Will this adversely affect my child?

Virtumax™ has no adverse effects on mother or child at any stage of the life cycle.