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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL VIEWS & NEWS

November 13, 2014

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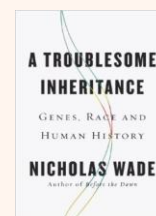
[Welcoming our new Fellows](#)

Three new fellows will work with CGS on the social justice and human rights issues surrounding commercial surrogacy and egg retrieval.



[Dorothy Roberts and Jonathan Marks webcast: Online now](#)

The [Dorothy Roberts](#) and [Jonathan Marks](#) webcast assessing the reception of Nicholas Wade's controversial book [A Troublesome Inheritance](#) is now online [here](#).



[The Future of Reproduction](#)

Thursday, November 20, 12:15-3:20pm, Washington, DC
CGS's Marcy Darnovsky will speak on a panel titled "In the Gattaca-Family Way: How Far is Too Far?" The event is sponsored by Future Tense, a partnership between the New America Foundation, Arizona State University and *Slate* magazine. [RSVP](#) to attend in person or view a live stream webcast.

future tense
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[Human Germline Modification in the UK? Cries of Caution from all Corners](#)

by Jessica Cussins

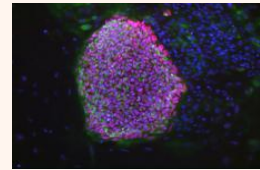
75% of submissions about three-person IVF to the UK House of Commons Science and Technology Committee warn that more evidence is needed prior to offering these techniques.



[Are All Pluripotent Stem Cells Equal?](#)

by Pete Shanks

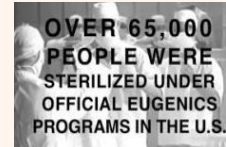
A new paper by long-term advocates of research cloning implies that it has no advantage over reprogramming cells.



[Breaking from our Eugenic Past](#)

by Jessica Cussins

As the victims of North Carolina's eugenics program finally receive compensation, we should not celebrate "the new eugenics" as some have argued, but learn carefully from this history.



[Patently Absurd? Or Absurdly Patentable?](#)

by Pete Shanks

The US Supreme Court might agree to rule on the validity of stem-cell patents, and the Canadian courts are being asked to invalidate a patent on disease-linked genes.



[FIXED: The Science/Fiction of Human Enhancement](#)

by Jonathan Chernoguz

The documentary produced and directed by Regan Brashear is receiving a new round of well-deserved positive attention around the world.



NEWS

▶ [Why Egg-Freezing Parties are Gaining Popularity for Women](#)

[With CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Hallie Jackson, *Today*

Video: At a new kind of after-hours get-together, women hear about the possibility of postponing pregnancy by freezing eggs.

▶ [North Carolina Compensates Victims of Eugenic Sterilization](#)

[With CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Lily Lou, *The Guilfordian*

The drive behind these sterilizations was the eugenics movement: the pseudoscience of improving a society's gene pool through reducing populations of people with negative traits.

▶ [Combining The DNA Of Three People Raises Ethical Questions](#)

by Rob Stein, *NPR*

It would be the first time genetic changes have been made in human DNA that would be passed on, down the generations, through the germline.

▶ [Open Letter to UK Parliament: Avoid Historic Mistake on Rushing Human Genetic Modification](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

There are too many unanswered questions and risks that remain to allow it to proceed at this time. In fact, moving forward with it would most likely be a tragic mistake for the UK.

▶ [Should Life Insurance Firms Have Access to Your Genetic Test Results?](#)

by Melissa Healy, *Los Angeles Times*

US federal law prohibits the use of genetic information for health insurance coverage decisions. But it doesn't cover life insurance, disability insurance or long-term care insurance.

▶ [Many U.S. Doctors Wary of Genetic Testing: Survey](#)

by Randy Dotingan, *HealthDay*

A new survey of American physicians suggests that many may not support genetic testing in patients without a major family history of certain illnesses.

▶ [Google Wants to Store Your Genome](#)

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*

For \$25 a year, Google will keep a copy of any genome in the cloud.

▶ [NIPS: Microdeletions, Macro Questions](#)

by Katie Stoll, *The DNA Exchange*

Adding microdeletions to early prenatal gene testing is a brilliant business strategy for expanding the market to include all pregnant women.

▶ [There May Be No Such Thing As A 'Longevity Gene'](#)

by Will Dunham, *Reuters*

The genomes of 17 people ages 110 to 116 were sequenced to try to determine whether they possess unique genetic traits. The study did not identify a common genetic characteristic in them.

▶ [Payments Start For N.C. Eugenics Victims, But Many Won't Qualify](#)

by Eric Mennel, *NPR*

The new compensation law says, to be eligible, operations have to have occurred under the state's Eugenics Board. As it turns out, the board very likely wasn't aware of all the sterilizations taking place.

▶ ['Haunted Files': The Dark Side of Progressivism](#)

by Naomi Schaefer Riley, *New York Post*

With funding from the Carnegie Institution and the Rockefeller Foundation, New York's Eugenics Records Office had the financial backing of the most important and "forward thinking" folks of the time.

▶ [Could Genomics Revive The Eugenics Movement?](#)

by Meredith Salisbury, *Forbes*

There was a time when people in America were sterilized, sometimes unwittingly, by activists aiming to create a healthier, "better" population. As the progress of genomics accelerates, we need to remember the lessons of the past.

▶ [At Least 11 Women Die After Sterilization in India](#)

by Katy Daigle, *Associated Press*

A total of 83 women, all villagers under the age of 32, had the operations as part of India's free sterilization campaign. Dozens later became ill and were rushed to private hospitals.

▶ [New DNA Analysis Could Provide Complete Description of a Suspect](#)

by Theodore Decker, *The Columbus Dispatch*

The next generation of DNA forensics will reveal a level of detail far beyond what currently is used in criminal investigations. Presented with only a person's DNA, "I can tell exactly what you look like," one analyst said.

▶ [Is Freezing Your Eggs Dangerous? A Primer](#)

by Josephine Johnston and Miriam Zoll, *New Republic*

This eagerness to push forward with non-medically necessary egg freezing services raises an important question: How safe and effective does a technology like this need to be before it is sold to young, fertile women?

▶ [MPs Vote to Make Sex Selection Abortion Illegal](#)

by Georgia Graham, *Daily Telegraph [UK]*

MPs vote 181 to 1 for a motion brought forward by a cross-party alliance in an effort to end uncertainty over the law.

▶ [U.S. Gene Patents: Patient Care Stymied in Canada, Hospital Claims](#)

CBC News [Canada]

An Ottawa hospital is challenging the legality of gene patents that hamper the ability of doctors to freely screen for potentially deadly genetic diseases without fear of being sued for patent violations.

▶ [Can Scientists Patent Life? The Question Returns to the Supreme Court](#)

by Michael Hiltzik, *Los Angeles Times*

The thorny and unresolved question of whether life itself can be patented may come again before the U.S. Supreme Court, if it accepts a motion filed by Santa Monica-based Consumer Watchdog.

▶ [Scientists Find That SCNT Derived Cells and IPS Cells are Similar](#)

New York Stem Cell Foundation

Cells derived from these two methods resulted in cells with highly similar gene expression and DNA methylation patterns and similar amounts of DNA mutations.

▶ [Human Thoughts Used to Switch on Genes](#)

by Helen Thomson, *New Scientist*

"We wanted to be able to use brainwaves to control genes. It's the first time anyone has linked synthetic biology and the mind," says a bioengineer who led the team behind the work.

▶ [What Neuro-Revolution? The Public Find Brain Science Irrelevant and Anxiety-Provoking](#)

by Christian Jarrett, *Wired*

There have been huge investments in brain science by the USA and Europe, but new research suggests neuroscience has yet to make an impact on most people's everyday lives.

▶ [Africa: Synthetic Biology - Artificial Life Threatens Nature and Society](#)

by Glenn Ashton, *AllAfrica*

Biologists continue to push the boundaries of their ability to alter life on earth in novel and unpredictable ways. The latest version is known as synthetic biology, or "synbio."

▶ [Reality Check for Google's Nanoparticle Health Tests](#)

by Kevin Bullis, *MIT Technology Review*

Google will face big challenges developing a nanotechnology-based test for cancer and other diseases.

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