

To ensure delivery, please add [info@geneticsandsociety.org](mailto:info@geneticsandsociety.org) to your address book or contacts.



# CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

## BIOPOLITICAL VIEWS & NEWS

November 3, 2016

[WEBSITE](#)

[BLOG](#)

[ABOUT US](#)

[PRESS ROOM](#)

[DONATE](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Please also follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Google+](#), [RSS](#) and on our [website](#) and [blog](#).

[Announcements](#)

[Commentary](#)

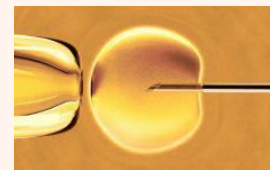
[CGS in the News](#)

[News](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### [Resource Page on "3-Person IVF"](#)

In light of recent breaking news of a baby born in Mexico via maternal spindle transfer, we have updated our 3-Person IVF resource page. The page includes technical explanations, a summary of key research and players, a timeline of recent UK and US policy discussions, and frequently asked questions.



[- TOP -](#)

## CGS COMMENTARY

### [Comment on "3-person IVF" procedures for infertility reportedly conducted in Ukraine](#)

[Press statement]

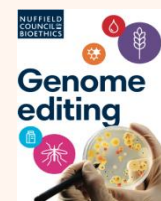
"These developments are another urgent sign that we need clear rules placing heritable human genetic modification off-limits on a national and international level."



### [7 Highlights from Nuffield Council's Review on the Ethics of Genome Editing](#)

by Jessica Cussins, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

A recent UK report discusses social and political implications of genetically engineering human reproduction and other controversial CRISPR applications.



### [Dangers of an Unscientific Policy Process: Why the UK's legalization of "three-person babies" should not be the model for CRISPR](#)

by Jessica Cussins, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

The UK's consideration of the science and public support for "mitochondrial replacement" may seem robust on its surface, but when it comes to CRISPR germline genome editing policy, we can and must do better.



### [3-person IVF and Infertility: What Kind of Slippery Slope Is This?](#)

by Leah Lowthorp

To what extent has anticipation of using 3-person IVF for infertility been part of the story from the start? While we can't know for sure, here are some possible connections.



### [18 Years Later: First Update on Children Born Using 3-person IVF Precursor](#)

by Leah Lowthorp

Citing a recent study, the media is celebrating "proof" that there is little danger in 3-person IVF. The study itself, however, is not at all certain of the reliability of its results.



### [Just What We Need: Slicker Infertility Marketing](#)

by Gina Maranto, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

A serial tech entrepreneur launches a new start-up called Prelude with a hipster-chic website downplaying the many unknowns of egg freezing.



### [World Bioethics Day: Human Dignity and Human Rights](#)

by Leah Lowthorp

October 19 marks the first such international event sponsored by the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics. This year's theme of Human Dignity and Human Rights will be celebrated in 55 countries worldwide.



- TOP -

## CGS in the NEWS

### [Three-person baby 'race' dangerous](#)

[citing CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by James Gallagher, *BBC*

Scientists and ethicists warn of fertility doctors forum-shopping to perform dangerous mitochondrial manipulation experiments.



### [Meet Prelude Fertility, The \\$200 Million Startup That Wants To Stop](#)

#### [The Biological Clock](#)

[citing CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Miguel Helft, *Forbes*

Despite the short and long-term risks of egg retrieval, fertility companies target young people as a new customer base, putting profits ahead of safety.



- TOP -

## NEWS

<b>3 Person IVF</b>	<b>Assisted Reproduction Technology</b>	<b>CRISPR</b>	<b>DNA Forensics</b>	<b>Eugenics</b>	<b>Gene Testing</b>
<b>Genetically Modified Organisms</b>	<b>Human Germline Modification</b>	<b>Synthetic Human Genome</b>	<b>Stem Cells</b>	<b>Various</b>	

### 3 Person IVF

▶ [Reports of 'three-parent babies' multiply](#)

by Sara Reardon, *Nature News*

Claims of infants created using mitochondrial manipulation techniques in Mexico and China, and two pregnancies in the Ukraine, stir scientific and ethical debate.

▶ [First Spindle Nuclear Transfer Baby Has Low Mutant DNA Load](#)

by Kate Johnson, *Medscape*

At the ASRM Scientific Congress, fertility doctors said they would continue using the mitochondrial manipulation procedure.

### Synthetic Human Genome

▶ [Designer and Discarded Genomes](#)

by Ruha Benjamin, *e-flux Architecture*

Field notes from a Harvard meeting on a "synthetic human genome" moonshot reveal the anti-democratic foundations of HGP-Write.

▶ [Writing the First Human Genome by 2026 Is Synthetic Biology's Grand Challenge](#)

by Jason Dorrier, *Singularity Hub*

AutoDesk's Andrew Hessel promises a functional fully synthesized human genome by 2026, continuing the HGP-Write hype that began with a closed meeting at Harvard in May.

### Human Germline Modification

- News TOP -

▶ [CRISPR gene-editing controversy shows old ideas about East and West still prevail](#)

by Calvin Wai-Loon Ho, *Econtimes*

Western imaginations tend to fantasize Asian countries as exotic, crude "others," viewing Chinese research as advancing primarily due to an assumed lack of regulation.

▶ [13 Urgent Science and Health Issues the Candidates Have Not Been Talking about](#)

by C.U.N.Y. Graduate School of Journalism, *Scientific American*

The prospect of genetically enhanced humans is looming, but has remained unaddressed during this election season.

### CRISPR

- News TOP -

▶ [Crispr's IPO doesn't hit its target](#)

by Robert Weisman, *The Boston Globe*

CRISPR Therapeutics' public offering raises half that of its rivals Editas & Intellia -- a sign that the market may be pulling back on genome editing stocks.

▶ [Dramatic Twists Could Upend Patent Battle Over CRISPR Genome-Editing Method](#)

by Jon Cohen, *Science Magazine*

The Broad Institute has asked officials to separate four of its issued patents from the larger case, which could permit "a way for both sides to walk away with a little IP in their pockets."

▶ [With New Program, DARPA To Encourage Safety "Brakes" For Gene Editing](#)

by Alex Lash, *Xconomy*

The US military R&D agency has launched a funding program called "Safe Genes" to find "safety measures that don't slow us down."

▶ [Mouse eggs made from skin cells in a dish](#)

by David Cyranoski, *Nature*

A research breakthrough sparks debate over the prospect of using stem cell techniques to produce synthetic human eggs from body tissue

▶ [CRISPR deployed to combat sickle-cell anaemia](#)

by Heidi Ledford, *Nature News*

Gene therapy aimed at a single-cell genetic condition shows some success in mice, while highlighting unknowns of human gene editing.

## Gene Testing

- News TOP -

▶ [Genetic test costs taxpayers \\$500 million a year, with little to show for it](#)

by Casey Ross, *STAT*

A new study shows that genetic testing can waste half a billion dollars a year, and lead to unclear results, anxiety, and more testing.

▶ [There Is No Leadership Gene](#)

by Tracy Staedter, *Seeker*

As genetic testing becomes mainstream, some consider using it to screen job applicants. Besides being unlawful discrimination, the science is highly unreliable.

▶ [Surprisingly few new parents enlist in study to have baby's genome sequenced](#)

by Jocelyn Kaiser, *Science Magazine*

The NIH-funded project, BabySeq, seeks to analyze protein-coding DNA for mutations in 7000 genes associated with childhood diseases.

▶ ["Personalized nutrition" isn't going to solve our diet problems](#)

by Julia Belluz, *Vox*

The trend of looking at DNA to "revolutionize" health lacks scientific backing and threatens to obscure environmental influences.

▶ [DNA database could help predict your disease — then get you fired](#)

by David Lazarus, *Los Angeles Times*

Precision medicine raises the disturbing prospect of genetic haves and have-nots, and of discrimination based not on race, age or gender but on health.

▶ [Advocacy group anecdotes present one-sided picture of genetic testing for breast cancer](#)

by Mary Chris Jaklevic, *Health News Review*

The push to test for BRCA genes often glosses over the limited information it provides, advocates' corporate ties, and the lack of support for women who test positive.

▶ [Can a DNA Test Really Predict Opiate Addiction?](#)

by Zachary Siegel, *The Daily Beast*

A precision medicine company claims it can predict a patient's risk of becoming addicted to opioids with 93% accuracy. But it has no peer-reviewed evidence.

▶ [White Nonsense: Alt-right trolls are arguing over genetic tests they think "prove" their whiteness](#)

by Elspeth Reeve, *VICE News*

The pseudo-science of "biological race" is perpetuated by white nationalist online communities with "ancestral evidence" provided by 23andMe.

▶ [Fruity with a hint of double helix: A startup claims to tailor wine to your DNA](#)

by Rebecca Robbins, *STAT News*

Sequencing giant Illumina's new app store Helix is leading the charge of linking DNA analysis to lifestyle marketing.

▶ [Genetic testing fumbles, revealing 'dark side' of precision medicine](#)

by Sharon Begley, *STAT*

Inconsistency in DNA interpretation and in the algorithms used among databases, unregulated by the FDA, contributed to a fatal outcome for a 5-year-old boy.

▶ [Mail-Order Tests Check Cells for Signs of Early Aging](#)

by Melinda Beck, *Wall Street Journal*

Personal genetic testing companies claim telomere length can signal disease risk, but top scientists say it all amounts to high-tech palm reading.

▶ [Colin Kaepernick's 'I Know My Rights Camp' cements his status as a cultural superhero in the black community](#)

by Shaun King, *New York Daily News*

NFL player Colin Kaepernick distributed DNA ancestry tests at a "Know My Rights" youth camp in Oakland, citing their reconciliation value.

## DNA Forensics

- News TOP -

▶ [23andMe Has Abandoned The Genetic Testing Tech Its Competition Is Banking On](#)

by Stephanie M. Lee, *BuzzFeed*

Other companies are starting to sell next-generation sequencing-based tests to the public, but 23andMe has let go the team that had been working on its project.

▶ [The controversial DNA search that helped nab the 'Grim Sleeper' is winning over skeptics](#)

by Marisa Gerber, *Los Angeles Times*

Use of familial DNA to solve crimes is growing in popularity, raising concerns of 4th Amendment unreasonable search and seizure violations.

## Eugenics

- News TOP -

▶ [The Promise of Indigenous Epigenetics](#)

by Emma Kowal, *Discover Society*

Amid the hype surrounding the biological study of inter-generational trauma, we need to be aware that epigenetics could be used for racist agendas that work against Indigenous health and well-being.

▶ [President signs Senate bill that protects eugenics victims](#)

by Richard Craver, *Winston-Salem Journal*

State restitution payments will not decrease or eliminate federal benefits for people who were forcibly sterilized.

## Stem Cells

- News TOP -

▶ [California stem cell agency approves \\$30 million to fast-track clinical trials](#)

by David Jensen, *The Sacramento Bee*

Dubbed the new "pitching machine," CIRRM's new \$30 million effort is designed to accelerate clinical trials of stem cell therapies.

▶ [What Stem Cell Researchers Talk About When They Talk About Ethics](#)

by Danielle Venton, *KQED*

"Engineers who design something expect it to work. But if you put something [designed] into an organism, the chances that something odd will happen are extremely high."

## Assisted Reproductive Technologies

- News TOP -

▶ [The Misleading Promise of I.V.F. for Women Over 40](#)

by Jane E. Brody, *The New York Times*

The fertility industry focuses on the 20 percent of women who succeed, not the 80 percent failure rate.

▶ [Should young women sell their eggs?](#)

by Donna de la Cruz, *The New York Times*

The number of eggs used for IVF procedures is increasing, but few studies have been done on the long-term impact egg retrieval has on a woman's fertility and overall health.

▶ [The Cash Cow in 'Fertility' Medicine](#)

by Pamela M Tsigdinos, *Healthcare in America*

The unregulated fertility industry often fails to disclose: lucrative profits, poor outcomes, emotional burdens, and medical risks.

▶ [UK's national sperm bank stops recruiting donors](#)

by Laura Lea, *BBC*

A joint project set up with a small government grant in response to couples turning to foreign markets for sperm yielded only seven donors.

▶ [Cambodia bans booming commercial surrogacy industry](#)

*Channel News Asia*

A government edict makes Cambodia the latest country to ban commercial surrogacy after prohibitions in other parts of the globe sparked a local boom in business.

▶ [Some I.V.F. Experts Discourage Multiple Births](#)

by Jane E. Brody, *The New York Times*

The first IVF baby resulted from a single transferred embryo. After years of encouraging multiple embryo transfers and multiple births, the rates are finally dropping.

▶ [Boys conceived through IVF technique have lower than average fertility](#)

by Hannah Devlin, *The Guardian*

Tests on young men conceived via intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection show that they have on average lower sperm quantity and mobility.

## Genetically Modified Organisms

- News TOP -

▶ [Doubts About the Promised Bounty of Genetically Modified Crops](#)

by Danny Hakim, *The New York Times*

Genetic modification in the US and Canada has not accelerated increases in crop yields or led to overall reduction in pesticide use.

▶ [Are Altered Mosquitoes a Public Health Project, or a Business?](#)

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*

The fight against dengue and Zika in Latin America is turning into a contest between mosquito-altering technologies, and between profits and public health.

## Various

- News TOP -

▶ [The shifting landscape in biosocial science](#)

by Brett Milano, *Harvard Gazette*

Dorothy Roberts' two-part Tanner Lectures examine how a profound shift in biosocial science is affecting race and social inequality.

▶ [Obama Brought Silicon Valley to Washington](#)

by Jenna Wortham, *The New York Times*

The White House South by South Lawn festival presented the U.S. as a start-up of dreamers and inventors looking to "fix" social problems with tech.

▶ [Social science: Include social equity in California Biohub](#)

by Science FARE (Feminist Anti-Racist Equity) Collective: Jessica Cussins, Kate Weatherford Darling, Ugo Edu, Laura Mamo, Jenny Reardon & Charis Thompson, *Nature*

The Chan-Zuckerberg initiative should use 5-7% of its Biohub research budget to design and monitor goals of justice and equality. Otherwise, social inequalities could limit the project's potential.

▶ [Science group seeks to guide Silicon Valley philanthropists](#)

by Erika Check Hayden, *Nature News*

The Science Philanthropy Alliance works with wealthy individuals, including the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative, on a confidential basis to advise them on funding basic research.

▶ [Blame bad incentives for bad science](#)

by Bethany Berkshire, *ScienceNews*

The publish-or-perish culture rewards researchers for the number of papers they publish, leading to sloppy and irreproducible science, and sometimes unethical practices.

▶ [The Ethics of Hunting Down 'Patient Zero'](#)

by Donald G. McNeil, Jr., *The New York Times*

The debunking of a myth raises a moral question about a regular feature of journalism: Is it right to hunt down the first case in any outbreak?

▶ [Fatal experiments: a maverick surgeon strikes back](#)

by Nell Frizzell, *The Guardian*

A new documentary looks at the six patients who died on Dr. Paolo Macchiarini's watch. When does pioneering medicine become reckless endangerment?

▶ [Uterus Transplants Fail Again: Why Are They So Difficult?](#)

by Rachael Rettner, *Live Science*

Four uterus transplants using live donors took place in Dallas, a first in the U.S. But three of the uteruses had to be removed due to lack of proper blood flow.

▶ [What's the Longest Humans Can Live? 115 Years, New Study Says](#)

by Carl Zimmer, *The New York Times*

Despite improvements in modern life and medicine, researchers claim that humans have reached the upper limit of longevity.

---

---

**DONATE NOW**  
SECURE DONATIONS  
BY GROUNDSPRING.org

---

---