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February 2, 2017

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Announcements

Commentary

CGS in the News

News

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[A conversation on disability justice & human genetic engineering](#)

CGS will be co-sponsoring a webinar, "A conversation on disability justice and human genetic engineering" with the Disability Visibility Project, the Longmore Institute on Disability, and Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund on February 27 at 1 pm Pacific Standard Time. Find more information on the event, including registration, on [Facebook](#).

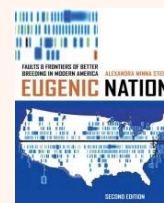


CGS COMMENTARY

[CGS Board Member Leads Redress Call for California Survivors of Eugenic Sterilization](#)

by Marcy Darnovsky

Scholars estimate that more than 800 people alive today were sterilized in California state institutions, and call on the state to consider compensation and redress.



[2016 Fear vs Hope: Gene Editing— Terrible turning point?](#)

by Pete Shanks, *Deccan Chronicle*

As the tools for gene editing rapidly advance, we approach our best chance to prevent the rise of a modern, uncontrolled and dangerously ill-considered techno-eugenics.



[How to Watch the Biggest Science Story of 2017](#)

by Leah Lowthorp

Less than three weeks into the new year, gene editing is already set to be one of the biggest stories of 2017. Here are three key points to watch out for.



CGS in the NEWS

[California voters were promised cures. But the state stem cell agency has funded just a trickle of clinical trials](#)

[citing CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Charles Piller, *STAT*

The Institute of Medicine said in a 2013 review that institutionalized conflicts of interest have raised questions about "the integrity and independence of some of CIRM's decisions."



[Written evidence for the Genomics and Genome-Editing Inquiry of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee](#)

[cites CGS]

by Edward Hockings and Lewis Coyne, *Ethics and Genetics*

UK's bioscience policy has been framed in terms of commercial value at the expense of substantive public consultation and broader deliberation.

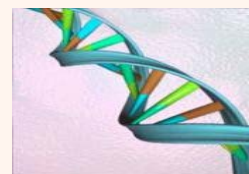


[China's \\$9 billion effort to beat the U.S. in genetic testing](#)

[citing CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Ylan Q. Mui, *Washington Post*

Chinese investors — both private and government-supported — are backing American start-ups and funding promising new companies at home.



[How Gene Editing Could Ruin Human Evolution](#)

[citing CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Jim Kozubek, *Time*

There are no superior genes. Genes have a long and layered history, and they often have three or four unrelated functions, which balance against each other under selection.



[Why tech offers better fertility benefits than other industries](#)

[citing CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Alison DeNisco, *Tech Republic*

The benefits are part of the current talent war for engineers and other professionals. Tech workers should be cautious about using the procedures.



NEWS

3 Person IVF

Assisted Reproduction Technology

CRISPR

Eugenics

Governance

CRISPR

[Do We Need an International Body to Regulate Genetic Engineering?](#)

by Kristen V. Brown, *Gizmodo*

Science reaches across borders, which poses challenging questions for us to decide what the future should look like--locally and globally.

[First human-pig 'chimera' created in milestone study](#)

by Hannah Devlin, *The Guardian*

The study has reignited ethical concerns that have threatened to overshadow the field's clinical promise.

► [**Bioterrorism And Gene Editing: Can Crispr Tool Be Used As Biological Weapon In War?**](#)

by Himanshu Goenka, *IB Times*

Given its broad distribution, low cost, and accelerated pace of development, deliberate or unintentional misuse of gene editing might have far-reaching economic and national security implications.

► [**Rewriting the Code of Life**](#)

by Michael Specter, *New Yorker*

Combining gene drive and CRISPR/Cas9 technologies, Kevin Esvelt is in an unusual position. There has never been a more powerful biological tool, or one with more potential to both improve the world and endanger it.

- News TOP -

► [**Designer babies: an ethical horror waiting to happen?**](#)

by Philip Ball, *The Guardian*

A perfectly feasible 10-20% improvement in health via PGD, added to the comparable advantage that wealth already brings, could lead to a widening of the health gap between rich and poor, both within a society and between nations.

► [**'Gene drive' moratorium shot down at UN biodiversity meeting**](#)

by Ewen Callaway, *Nature*

Environmental activists' appeals for a freeze on gene-drive field trials, and on some lab research, are likely to resurface in the future.

► [**ACMG Issues Statement Against Genome Editing in Embryos**](#)

GenomeWeb

In light of these potentially serious and far-reaching concerns, [we believe] that genome editing in the human embryo is premature and should be subject to vigorous ethical debate and further refinement of technological issues.

► [**Gene-editing firms form patent alliance against Editas, Broad**](#)

by Max Stendahl, *Boston Business Journal*

The announcement formalizes a legal coordination and cost-sharing arrangement among four biotech companies.

Assisted Reproduction Technology

- News TOP -

► [**Fertility Futility: Procedures Claimed to Boost IVF Success Lack Supporting Evidence**](#)

by Sandy Ong, *Newsweek*

Of nearly 30 expensive clinic add-ons reviewed by researchers, only one drew some evidence of boosting the chances of having a baby.

► [**'We simply don't know': Egg donors face uncertain long-term risks**](#)

by Emily Woodruff, *STAT*

Experts say that research hasn't happened because most of the focus was on the infertile couple seeking to conceive, rather than the dangers donors face.

▶ [Surrogacy is the latest reproductive rights debate at the Minnesota Capitol](#)

by Jean Hopfensperger, *Star Tribune*

A campaign by the Catholic Conference and Family Council aims to tighten restrictions on surrogate pregnancies in Minnesota, which is among about 28 states without laws.

▶ [The Promise and Peril of Emerging Reproductive Technologies](#)

by Ekaterina Pesheva, *Harvard Medical School*

IVG, thus far successful only in mice, allows scientists to create embryos in a lab by reprogramming any type of adult cell to become a sperm or egg cell.

▶ [Philippine police arrest surrogate mothers-to-be in human trafficking crackdown](#)

by Lindsay Murdoch, *Sydney Morning Herald*

International surrogacy agents operate across multiple borders, flying surrogates, eggs, doctors and parents to whichever country is the most porous for their business.

3 Person IVF

- News TOP -

▶ [Babies made from three people approved in UK](#)

by James Gallagher, *BBC News*

Some scientists have questioned the technique, saying it could open the door to genetically-modified 'designer' babies.

▶ [Sanctioned UK Trial of Mitochondrial Transfer Nears](#)

by Jeff Lyon, *The JAMA Network*

Significantly, the United Kingdom's endorsement sanctions alteration of not only male but also female embryos in what would become the world's first known germline gene therapy.

▶ [Controversial IVF technique produces a baby girl -- and for some, that's a problem](#)

by Susan Scutti, *CNN*

Stakes are rising as genetic modifications produced in a girl baby could be passed onto her future children. The risks remain unknown.

▶ [Unexpected Risks Found In Replacing DNA To Prevent Inherited Disorders](#)

by Jill Neimark, *NPR*

Scientists are increasingly concerned that "3-person IVF" techniques may allow flawed mitochondria to resurface and threaten a child's health.

Eugenics

- News TOP -

▶ [Eugenics warning](#)

by Alexandra Minna Stern, *Issues in Science and Technology*

The eugenic past can be a useful compass when considering present and future uses of genetic technologies.

▶ [California needs to do more than apologize to people it sterilized](#)

by The Times editorial board, *Los Angeles Times*

State officials should quickly begin tracking down these elderly victims who were abused decades ago while under the state's care. Time is short to do right by them.

► [Will the Alt-Right Promote a New Kind of Racist Genetics?](#)

by Sarah Zhang, *The Atlantic*

The genomic revolution has led to easy sequencing and cheap "ancestry" tests. White nationalists are paying attention.

Governance

- News TOP -

► [Obama vs. Trump: 5 ways they clash — or don't — on health and science](#)

by Robert Faturechi, *ProPublica*

After hearing from a company whose CEO was a campaign contributor, a congressional aide to Donald Trump's HHS nominee repeatedly pushed a federal health agency to remove a critical drug study from its website.

► [Family DNA Searches Seen as Crime-Solving Tool, and Intrusion on Rights](#)

by Eli Rosenberg, *The New York Times*

As the collection of DNA grows in the private sector, so do the concerns about its potential misuse, particularly in the hands of government institutions.

► [In an engineered world, who benefits from biological diversity?](#)

by Molly Bond and Deborah Scott, *The Guardian*

Without agreements at an international level, it seems unlikely that the future bioeconomy will be fair, especially when so much hype and hope rides on the use of big biodata.

► [When a Study Cast Doubt on a Heart Pill, the Drug Company Turned to Tom Price](#)

by Robert Faturechi, *ProPublica*

After hearing from a company whose CEO was a campaign contributor, a congressional aide to Donald Trump's HHS nominee repeatedly pushed a federal health agency to remove a critical drug study from its website.

► [Obama's Outgoing Science Advisor Will Keep Watch in 2017](#)

by Dave Levitan, *WIRED*

There is no denying the scientific know-how of the outgoing administration. What comes next has scientists worried.

► [Four Steps Forward, One Leap Back on Global Governance of Synthetic Biology](#)

by ETC Group, *ETC Group*

196 countries meeting at the UN Convention on Biodiversity grappled with how synthetic biology and other risky technologies threaten biodiversity, local economies, and the rights of farmers and Indigenous Peoples.

► [Lawmakers try to fix a side effect of reducing drug and theft crimes: Not enough DNA samples for cold cases](#)

by Jazmine Ulloa, *Los Angeles Times*

A California bill would expand the state's DNA database, raising serious concerns

about privacy and disproportionately targeting blacks and Latinos.

► [UC Davis professor wants FDA to create firm guidelines for stem-cell treatments, put clinics on notice](#)

by Claudia Buck, *Sacramento Bee*

Now is the time for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to finalize guidelines and send notices to clinics that are offering untested treatments.

