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# News&Views

July 15, 2022

## SPOTLIGHT



**Assume a Spherical Cow ... On Opinion Polls About “Safe and Effective” Heritable Genome Editing**  
Pete Shanks, *Biopolitical Times* | 07.14.2022

New polls gauging public opinion on heritable genome editing ask participants to assume that the technology is “safe and effective,” a dangerous assumption that overlooks known risks with gene editing techniques.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Engineering For Perfection: The False Promises of Gene Editing in Assisted Reproduction**

Meghna Mukherjee and Nairi Shirinian, *UC Berkeley Othering & Belonging Institute* | 07.06.2022

This policy brief co-sponsored by CGS places discussions of the social and political consequences of heritable gene editing in the context of existing assisted reproductive technologies and the for-profit fertility industry. Stay tuned for information on upcoming events focused on *Engineering for Perfection*.

## COMMENTARY



## How Will the Dobbs Decision Affect Assisted Reproduction?

[Emma McDonald](#), *Biopolitical Times* | 07.15.2022

Media coverage has highlighted the ways that state laws banning abortion may also ban or limit access to reproductive technologies, in addition to increasing surveillance and criminalization of healthcare providers and pregnant women and people.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

GENOME EDITING | ASSISTED REPRODUCTION | REACTIONS TO *DOBBS* RULING | EUGENICS | SURROGACY360 | ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE | VARIOUS

### GENOME EDITING

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#### Edits to a cholesterol gene could stop the biggest killer on earth

[Antonio Regalado](#), *MIT Technology Review* | 07.12.2022

A volunteer in New Zealand became the first person to have a version of CRISPR injected to modify a single letter of DNA in their liver cells in order to lower their cholesterol. If successful, the technique could be used widely to prevent cardiovascular disease.

#### Secrecy: A demon of gene therapy's past bedevils its future

[Eric B. Kmieciak](#), *STAT* | 07.11.2022

The field of gene therapy was once severely damaged by not sharing data that may have been able to prevent a young man from losing his life. Transparency in gene therapy research is vital to success.

#### 'Softer' form of CRISPR may edit genes more accurately

[Carissa Wong](#), *New Scientist* | 07.01.2022

Gene editing with CRISPR can cause off-target mutations, but a new form of the technique that cuts one strand of DNA instead of both may reduce off-target effects.

#### What's next for the gene-edited children from CRISPR trial in China?

[Nicolas Gutierrez C.](#), *New Scientist* | 06.29.2022

Scientists in China are considering how best to look after three children who were gene-edited as embryos in He Jiankui's controversial experiment.

### ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

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#### She promised babies at bargain prices using surrogates in Mexico. Now the FBI is investigating

[Emily Baumgaertner](#), *Los Angeles Times* | 07.10.2022

Lilly Frost promised clients that they would become parents through surrogacy if they paid her a flat fee. Many discovered far too late that this was too good to be true, and Frost's collapsed business is under federal investigation.

#### Eggs and sperm can now be stored for up to 55 years – here's what that means for donors and people seeking fertility treatment

[Caroline A. B. Redhead, Jackson Kirkman-Brown, Leah Gilman, and Lucy Frith](#), *The Conversation* | 07.04.2022

The UK government has just extended the period that eggs, sperm, and embryos can be stored from 10 years to 55 years. What are the implications of making some donors' gametes available for much longer periods?

## Colorado Court Of Appeals Rules For Privacy Rights In Embryo Dispute

[Ellen Trachman](#), *Above the Law* | 06.29.2022

Ruling on a divorced couple's dispute over surplus IVF embryos, the Colorado Court of Appeals found that the constitutionally-based privacy right to reproduce or not prevails over a "sincerely held religious belief" that embryos are people.

## REACTIONS TO *DOBBS* RULING

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### Fertility Medicine After Roe

[Nairi Shirinian and Meghna Mukherjee](#), *Ms. Magazine* | 07.13.2022

The end of *Roe*, combined with existing anti-poor fertility policies, means that women—especially poor women of color—will have even less of a say in the time and circumstances in which they decide to have a family.

### Infertility Patients and Doctors Fear Abortion Bans Could Restrict I.V.F.

[Jan Hoffman](#), *The New York Times* | 07.05.2022

Many state laws banning abortion from conception do not distinguish between fertilization that happens in the womb or in the lab, meaning that the laws may restrict genetic testing, storage, and disposal of embryos in the IVF process.

### We Need Racial Solidarity to Restore Abortion Rights

[Loretta J. Ross](#), *CounterPunch* | 07.01.2022

Restrictions on abortion and birth control aim to increase births among White women, furthering a broader white supremacist, eugenicist agenda. Black, indigenous, and people of color and LGBTQIA+ people will be injured disproportionately.

### All the Ways *Dobbs* Will Harm Pregnant Women, Whether or Not They Want an Abortion

[Sonia M. Suter](#), *Slate* | 06.29.2022

The *Dobbs* decision does not just affect those who wish to end pregnancies—it also impacts those who want to have a child. States and potentially Congress can interfere with and surveil the entire reproductive cycle, from efforts to conceive to delivery.

### State Abortion Trigger Laws: Potential Implications for Reproductive Medicine

*ASRM Center for Policy and Leadership* | 06.29.2022

An American Society for Reproductive Medicine report analyzes thirteen states' abortion trigger laws and their implications for reproductive medicine, including IVF and genetic testing.

### Genetic Screening Results Just Got Harder to Handle Under New Abortion Rules

[Sara Reardon](#), *Kaiser Health News* | 06.27.2022

Restrictive abortion laws in Texas and other states make it virtually impossible to terminate a pregnancy based on prenatal genetic testing results, unless patients have the resources to travel elsewhere for the procedure.

### With *Roe v. Wade* overturned, disabled people reflect on how it will impact them

[Shruti Rajkumar](#), *NPR* | 06.25.2022

Overturning *Roe v. Wade* will disproportionately impact disabled people, who already face threats to their bodily autonomy.

## EUGENICS

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### Disabled People Never Had Full Autonomy Over Our Reproductive Rights

[Anja Herrman](#), *Teen Vogue* | 07.05.2022

For disabled people, *Roe v. Wade* was never enough to protect reproductive rights. The early 20th century eugenics movement advocated for the forced sterilization of disabled people, which is still permitted by laws in 31 states.

### Reproductive control of Indigenous women continues around the world, say survivors and researchers

[Gillian Rutherford](#), *University of Alberta* | 06.27.2022

Survivors of forced sterilization and coerced contraception from Canada, Peru, and Indonesia will gather with researchers at a summit in August to share stories, heal through art and ceremony, and set an agenda for change.

## SURROGACY360

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### Wombs For Rent: The Legalization of Commercial Surrogacy

[Reed Pence](#), [Taina Bien-Aimé](#), [Dr. Linda Kahn](#), and [Ashley Mareko](#), *Radio Health Journal* | 06.12.2022

In this podcast, the Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women discusses ways that surrogacy is exploitative, while a three-time surrogate who works for a surrogacy agency argues that company policies can safeguard parties in surrogacy arrangements.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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### Here's How AI Is Helping Make Babies By Revolutionizing IVF

[Ganes Kesari](#), *Forbes* | 06.30.2022

Fertility startups see promise in using artificial intelligence to enhance IVF offerings and expand their market by increasing access to IVF.

### Who Is Liable when AI Kills?

[George Maliha](#) and [Ravi B. Parikh](#), *Scientific American* | 06.29.2022

Our current liability system is completely unprepared for AI. Everyone along the chain from developers to users should bear enough liability to ensure AI safety and effectiveness.

## VARIOUS

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### Cloned mice created from freeze dried skin cells in world first

[Ian Sample](#), *The Guardian* | 07.05.2022

Researchers in Japan have created cloned mice from freeze-dried skin cells, with the hope that the

technique could help conservationists revive populations of endangered species.

## Amid the Turmoil of Covid, Biosafety Legislation Gets Political

Michael Schulson, *Undark Magazine* | 06.27.2022

The pandemic has polarized a previously bipartisan conversation about safety practices in labs working with dangerous pathogens, leaving Congressional Democrats hesitant to engage publicly on biosafety and biosecurity issues.

If you've read this far, you clearly care about the fight to reclaim human biotechnologies for the common good. Thank you!

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