

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



## CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

March 5, 2015

WEBSITE

BLOG

ABOUT US

PRESS ROOM

DONATE

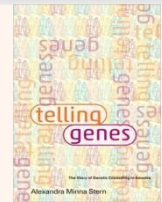
SUBSCRIBE

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### [Nathaniel Comfort and Alexandra Minna Stern Talk Biopolitical: Online Now](#)

In case you missed the stimulating conversation about the history and future of human genetics and eugenics between Nathaniel Comfort and Alexandra Stern, it's now available [online](#).



### CGS COMMENTARY

#### [United Kingdom Becomes Only Country to Allow Human Germline Modification](#)

[Press statement]

The Center for Genetics and Society joins many others who believe that this is a historic mistake.



#### [With World Watching, UK Allows Experiments to Genetically Alter Babies](#)

by Jessica Cussins

Despite several possibly insurmountable legal and safety hurdles, the House of Lords gave the final approval needed to move into fertility clinics the embryo modification techniques referred to as "mitochondrial donation."



#### [23andMe's Dangerous Business Model](#)

by Marcy Darnovsky, *The New York Times*

Handing over reams of our genetic, health and personal information to companies like 23andMe – and paying them for the privilege – is far from the only path to scientific advance.



---

## [Babies from Two Bio-Dads?](#)

by Pete Shanks

Recent research on human germ cells has revived speculation about the possible uses of artificial gametes.

---

## [Virginia Votes Compensation for Victims of its Eugenic Sterilization Program](#)

by Jaydee Hanson, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

Virginia's eugenic sterilization law was revoked in 1979. It has taken 35 years for the state to decide to provide financial reparations for its victims, each of whom will receive \$25,000.

## NEWS

### ▶ [Mitochondrial Gene Therapy Passes Final U.K. Vote](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Gretchen Vogel, *Science Insider*

The technique is controversial because the modified DNA would be passed on to future generations.

### ▶ [Three-Parent IVF: What's The Hurry?](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by John Farrell, *Forbes*

Science shouldn't be a rush order, especially when the health and well-being of a future generation and its descendants depends on it.

### ▶ [Anne Wojcicki's Quest to Put People in Charge of Their Own](#)

#### [Health](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Stephanie Lee, *San Francisco Chronicle*

23andMe has attracted nearly a million customers and more than \$126 million in venture capital, but not everyone thinks it should be the one to collect their data.

### ▶ ['Manufactured' Babies of Same-Sex Parents May Soon Be](#)

#### [Reality](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Beth Greenfield, *Yahoo Parenting*

Some say it will allow same-sex couples to "manufacture" biological babies using embryonic stem cells.

## [Put Your \(Frozen\) Eggs in the Bank: Welcome to the](#)

### ▶ [Bioeconomy](#)

[Quotes CGS Fellow Lisa Ikemoto]

by Victoria Turk, *Motherboard*

Emerging reproductive technologies risk presenting our bodies from a new perspective: as a commodity to be banked, bought, and sold.

### ▶ [The Truth about Mitochondrial Replacement](#)

by Françoise Baylis, *Impact Ethics*

If we are to have honest conversation about possible benefits and harms of mitochondrial replacement, we should start by acknowledging that discussions to date have been a distraction.

### ▶ [Reproduction 3.0](#)

by Leah Ramsay, *Berman Institute of Bioethics Bulletin*

Bioethics scholars discuss the science and ethics of the UK vote to allow mitochondrial manipulation procedures.

### ▶ [A U.S. Cloning Pioneer's Startling New Partnerships](#)

by Cynthia Fox, *BioScience Technology*

In a move that stunned the stem cell field, the first researcher to create cloned human cells—and to derive embryonic stem cells from them—has teamed with a man who once made a fraudulent claim to do the same.

### ▶ [Virginia Lawmakers OK Payout to Forced Sterilization Survivors](#)

by Gary Robertson, *Reuters*

"I think it's a recognition that when we do something wrong we need to fix it as a government."

### ▶ [FDA Clearance of DTC Genetic Test Gets Mixed Reviews](#)

by Ricki Lewis, *Medscscape*

The FDA has authorized 23andMe to market a direct-to-consumer carrier test for Bloom syndrome.

### ▶ [The 23andMe Experience - A Lot of Knowledge is of Little Help?](#)

by Alison Lashwood, *BioNews*

Those in favour see direct-to-consumer genetic tests as a way of engaging the public with science and making it fun, but there are problematic aspects, too.

### ▶ [US Regulators Try to Tame 'Wild West' of DNA Testing](#)

by Erika Check Hayden, *Nature News*

A particular sticking point is who decides what the genetic read-outs mean in terms of health and disease.

▶ [State has DNA Databases from Cradle to Jail](#)

by Jeremy B. White, *The Sacramento Bee*

Soon after every baby in California is born, a hospital worker extracts and logs its genetic information. It will be tested for diseases and then stashed permanently in a warehouse containing a generation of Californians' DNA.

▶ [Your DNA is Everywhere. Can the Police Analyze it?](#)

by David Kravets, *Ars Technica*

A human sheds as much as 100 pounds of DNA-containing material in a lifetime and about 30,000 skin cells an hour. Who owns that DNA is the latest privacy issue before the US Supreme Court.

▶ [Supreme Court Gives Tacit Approval for Government to Take Anybody's DNA](#)

by David Kravets, *Ars Technica*

The Supreme Court has let stand the conviction of a rapist whose prosecution rested on DNA swiped from the armrests of an interrogation-room chair.

▶ [Building a Face, and a Case, on DNA](#)

by Andrew Pollack, *The New York Times*

Rather than an artist's rendering based on witness descriptions, the face was generated by a computer relying solely on DNA found at the scene of the crime.

▶ [Fertility Clinic Courts Controversy With Treatment That Recharges Eggs](#)

by Rob Stein, *NPR*

OvaScience hopes to eventually bring the technique to infertile couples in the United States. But the Food and Drug Administration has blocked that effort — pending proof that the technique works and is safe.

▶ [Egg-Freeze Unadvised, Panel Says](#)

*Japan Times*

The Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology will not recommend egg freezing for healthy young women, citing the health risks and relatively low pregnancy rate.

▶ [Thailand Bans Commercial Surrogacy for Foreigners](#)

*BBC*

Under the new law, only married Thai couples or couples with one Thai partner who have been married at least three years can seek surrogacy.

▶ [Surrogate Mothers in India Unaware of Risks](#)

by Frederik Joelving, *Reuters*

Renting out their wombs may ease financial problems for poor women in India, but new research suggests surrogate mothers there are unaware of the risks and often left out of key medical decisions about their pregnancy.

▶ [\*\*She Got Rich Stealing Moms' Dreams\*\*](#)

by M.L. Nestel, *The Daily Beast*

Forty families, desperate for kids, paid Miracles Surrogacy tens of thousands each for the promise of parenthood. But the babies never came.

▶ [\*\*Good Eggs, Bad Sperm and Terrible Journalism\*\*](#)

by Kirsty Oswald, *BioNews*

By repackaging the findings to appeal to the mainstream press, the true relevance of this research has been overlooked.

▶ [\*\*Why Racism is not Backed by Science\*\*](#)

by Adam Rutherford, *The Guardian*

As we harvest ever more human genomes one fact remains unshakeable: race does not exist.

▶ [\*\*How Much Do Stem Cell Treatments Really Cost?\*\*](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

Part of the way that clinics cut corners to boost their profits is by not following FDA regulations, putting patients in danger.

▶ [\*\*Human Subjects Protections Under Fire at the University of Minnesota\*\*](#)

by Jennifer Couzin-Frankel, *Science*

A damning report on how the University of Minnesota protects volunteers in its clinical trials concludes that researchers inadequately reviewed research studies and need more training to better protect the most vulnerable subjects.

▶ [\*\*Full-Body Transplants Are a Crazy, Wildly Unethical Idea\*\*](#)

by Nick Stockton, *Wired*

For the last week, an Italian neurosurgeon has been executing a full-blown media offensive, talking up his plan to stitch one person's head to another person's body.

▶ [\*\*Is Most of Our DNA Garbage?\*\*](#)

by Carl Zimmer, *The New York Times*

Why does an onion carry around so much more genetic material than a human? The size of an animal's or plant's genome has essentially no relationship to its complexity, because a vast majority of its DNA is — to

put it bluntly — junk.

▶ [Reading Our Genome is Tough, But Epigenetics is Giving Us Valuable Clues](#)

by Marcus Woo, *Wired*

If the genome is a book, then the epigenome is like the post-it notes, dog-ears, and highlights that help you make sense of a particularly dense text.

