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## CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

April 9, 2015

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **[You're Invited : Talking Biopolitics with Aaron Panofsky and Osagie Obasogie](#)**

Thursday, April 30, 11am PT / 2pm ET / 18:00 GMT

Please mark your calendars for a live online conversation with Aaron Panofsky about his new book [Misbehaving Science: Controversy and the Development of Behavior Genetics](#). Aaron will be interviewed by CGS's Osagie Obasogie.



RSVP

#### **[Sacred vs. Synthetic: Competing Visions for Life on Earth, SynBioWatch](#)**

Tuesday, April 14, 7pm - 8:30pm (PT), Oakland, CA

A conversation about the false promise of synbio and the real solutions right here in our own communities.



### CGS COMMENTARY

#### **[Calling for "More than a Moratorium" on Human Germline Modification](#)**

by Jessica Cussins

A broader array of critical responses and policy suggestions follows recent reports that the gene-editing technique CRISPR has been used to genetically modify human sperm, eggs, or embryos.



#### **[Incurious about Ethics?](#)**

by Marcy Darnovsky

An Institute of Medicine committee is studying the “ethical and social policy” implications of germline mitochondrial manipulation. Why do most of its members seem uninterested in social or policy questions?

### [DARPA, Synthetic Biology and Human Germline Engineering](#)

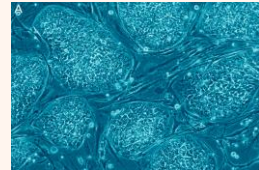
by Pete Shanks

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is committed to synthetic biology as one of its four main project areas, and may be involved in human germline experiments.

### [Hype, Money and Stem Cell](#)

by Pete Shanks

Michael Hiltzik of the *Los Angeles Times* used newly published research to write a scathing article largely focused on the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.



## NEWS

### ▶ [A Modern Woman's Burden](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Natalie Lampert, *New Republic*

How much does egg-freezing technology help delay reproduction?

### ▶ [Who's Getting Rich Off Your Genes?](#)

by Patricia J. Williams, *The Nation*

The post-war aversion to eugenics — the understanding that despite great variability from one human to another, no one life is worth more than another — has eroded.

### ▶ [Human Genetic Engineering Demands more than a Moratorium](#)

by Sheila Jasanoff, J. Benjamin Hurlbut and Krishanu Saha, *The Guardian*

Expert calls for a moratorium on germline gene engineering are no substitute for richer public debate on the ethics and politics of our biotechnological futures.

### ▶ [Lisa Ikemoto Guest Piece on Human Germline Genetic Modification](#)

by Lisa C. Ikemoto, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

The call for a moratorium is as much a game changer as the technology itself. It creates an opportunity for research transparency and open exchange between the scientific community and the lay public.

▶ [Practical Plan for Managing Human Germline Genetic Modification](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

There is a growing sense of urgency amongst biomedical scientists to take a proactive approach to current and future use of CRISPR technology in human germ cells and embryos.

▶ [Genetic Engineering & The Future of Humankind](#)

by Jamie Metzler, *Ivy Magazine*

We're on the verge of this fundamental transformation, not just of our reproductive processes, but of how we think of ourselves as humans.

▶ [Scientists Urge Temporary Moratorium On Human Genome Edits](#)

by Rob Stein, *NPR*

Leading biologists and bioethicists are calling for a worldwide moratorium.

▶ [Strategy: Lines in the Sand](#)

by C. Simone Fishburn, *BioCentury*

With some researchers calling for restraint on the use of gene editing while ground rules are laid, schisms are already surfacing on whether there's any case to be made for using the technology in human germline cells.

▶ [Genome Editing Poses Ethical Problems that we Cannot Ignore](#)

by Anthony Wrigley and Ainsley Newson, *The Conversation*

With great power comes great responsibility – and few subjects elicit such heated debates about moral rights and wrongs.

▶ [Why is the Scientific World Abuzz about an Unpublished Paper? Because it Could Permanently Change Human DNA](#)

by Ashley Csanady, *National Post*

Scientists around the world are anticipating the results of a Chinese study that would mark the first time DNA in a human embryo has been modified in a way that would carry into future generations.

▶ [Who Owns CRISPR?](#)

by Jenny Rood, *The Scientist*

“The technology seems so powerful, the technology seems so profitable, and the intellectual property issues seem so irreconcilable that it’s a big mystery as to what’s going to happen.”

▶ [Mini Enzyme Moves Gene Editing Closer to the Clinic](#)

by Heidi Ledford, *Nature News*

The discovery expands the potential CRISPR toolbox for treating genetic diseases in humans.

▶ [\*\*Doudna's Caribou Bio Raises \\$11M To Expand Uses For Gene Editing Tech\*\*](#)

by Bernadette Tansey, *Xconomy*

The money will help the company speed up its efforts to adapt a versatile genome editing technique for uses including drug research and development, and industrial technology.

▶ [\*\*Genetic Engineering, Humankind Creeps Toward A 'Planet Of The Apes'\*\*](#)

by Laurent Alexandre, *World Crunch*

The astounding developments in nanotechnology, biotechnology, information technology and cognitive science are posing problems that we thought only existed in science fiction.

▶ [\*\*The Next Manhattan Project\*\*](#)

by Patrick Tucker, *The Atlantic*

Anticipating cutting-edge scientific research before it happens may be key to protecting against bioterrorism.

▶ [\*\*New DNA Tech: Creating Unicorns and Curing Cancer for Real?\*\*](#)

by David Ewing Duncan, *The Daily Beast*

We have the earth-shattering technology in our hands—but even its inventors worry about its awesome power to alter our genetic future.

▶ [\*\*The Pentagon Is Putting Big Money Into Synthetic Biology\*\*](#)

by Dan Vergano, *BuzzFeed News*

Genetically engineered bacteria, bionic limbs, and synthetic vaccines will help the U.S. build a more powerful military, according to DARPA, the Pentagon's futuristic research arm.

▶ [\*\*The Brave New World of DNA Synthesis\*\*](#)

by Jeffrey Marlow, *Wired*

DNA synthesis companies range from scrappy start-ups to Cambridge-area behemoths, each touting a distinct set of tools that carves out a slice of the ever-increasing pie.

▶ [\*\*Tech Titans' Latest Project: Defy Death\*\*](#)

by Ariana Eunjung Cha, *Washington Post*

For centuries, explorers have searched the world for the fountain of youth. Today's billionaires believe they can create it, using technology and data.

▶ [\*\*Ancestry.Com Is Quietly Transforming Itself Into A Medical\*\*](#)

## [Research Juggernaut](#)

by Daniela Hernandez, *The Huffington Post*

Since it has been collecting ancestral data for decades, the \$1.6 billion company knows health information not just about its users, but about their great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents.

### ▶ [Fetal DNA Tests Prove Highly Accurate but Experts Warn of Exceptions](#)

by Julie Steenhuisen, *Reuters*

The newer tests are not regulated by the FDA, and companies are heavily promoting their performance in ways that may mislead patients, critics say.

### ▶ [Genome Study Predicts DNA of the Whole of Iceland](#)

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*

Large genome databases are starting to reveal critical health information—even about people who have not contributed their DNA.

### ▶ [Baby Genes to be Mapped at Birth in Medical First](#)

by Helen Thomson, *New Scientist*

Could genome sequencing of newborns give valuable insight or do harm? That's the question US doctors are trying to answer in a pioneering trial starting this month.

### ▶ [A New Facebook App Wants To Test Your DNA](#)

by Virginia Hughes, *BuzzFeed News*

Some people are growing wary of Facebook's reach into seemingly every aspect of life, and all of the privacy and security concerns that come with that.

### ▶ [New Study: Stem Cell Field is Infected with Hype](#)

by Michael Hiltzik, *Los Angeles Times*

Stem cell researchers often ply journalists with "unrealistic timelines" for the development of stem cell therapies, and journalists often swallow these claims uncritically.

### ▶ [Controversial Fertility Treatments Focus on Eggs' Power Plants](#)

by Jennifer Couzin-Frankel, *Science Magazine*

A Massachusetts company is convinced that mitochondria are key to conceiving a baby. More than 10 women are now pregnant via the firm's method, which adds a bolus of a woman's own mitochondria to her mature egg.

### ▶ [Kaiser to Look for Autism's Causes in Large-Scale Study](#)

by Victoria Colliver, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Scientists have long suspected that autism results from a combination of genetics and environmental factors, but no one knows for sure.

▶ [Gene Counsellors Expect Resurgence of 'Jolie Effect'](#)

by Erika Check Hayden, *Nature*

Misinterpreted results of tests for cancer risk can result in unnecessary surgery.

▶ [Squealing on DNA: The Law and Secondary Uses of Genetic Information](#)

by Nils Hoppe, *BioNews*

One of the legally and ethically problematic issues regularly debated in the context of biobanks and tissue repositories is that of its potential for forensic use.

▶ [Precision Medicine is Coming, But Not Anytime Soon](#)

by Beverly Merz, *Harvard Health Blog*

Identifying disease-related genes doesn't mean these genes are useful today.

▶ [This is Why you Shouldn't Believe that Exciting New Medical Study](#)

by Julia Belluz, *Vox*

All studies are biased and flawed in their own unique ways. The truth usually lies somewhere in a flurry of research on the same question.

▶ [Astronaut Twins Study Raises Questions About Genetic Privacy](#)

by Alexandra Witze, *Nature*

Researchers will gather reams of genomic and other data on astronaut Scott Kelly and compare it to his Earth-dwelling twin, but the results may never be published if they discover sensitive medical information.

▶ [Bioethics Commission Releases Final Neuroscience Report as Part of BRAIN Initiative](#)

Misti Ault Anderson, *The blog of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues*

The report focuses on topics that must be addressed if neuroscience is to progress and be applied ethically.

▶ [Attorneys: Sterilizations were Part of Plea Deal Talks](#)

by Sheila Burke, *Associated Press*

Nashville prosecutors have made sterilization of women part of plea negotiations at least four times in the past five years.

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