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CGS COMMENTARY

[The Science and Ethics of Genetically Engineered Human DNA](#)

by Pete Shanks

Discussion of germline genetic modification continues, most recently in the House of Representatives Research and Technology Subcommittee, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

[UK Seeks Regulatory Advice for “Mitochondrial Replacement,” Fails to Mention Cross-Generational Implications](#)

by Jessica Cussins

How does one go about regulating the world's first cross-generational biological experiment in human germline modification? The regulating body in charge isn't exactly sure.



[No Más Bebés: A Documentary on the Sterilizations of Latina Mothers at an LA County Hospital](#)

by Jonathan Chernoguz

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, some women who went to Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center to deliver their babies went home without the ability to have children again.



[Reframing](#)

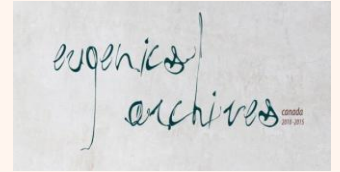
by Pete Shanks

Beth Shapiro is advocating for a new definition of "de-extinction" that stresses the ecological niche over genetic identity. She envisages using novel creatures to change entire ecologies.

[The Scope](#)

by Jonathan Chernoguz

The four-day workshop, organized by the Edmonton-based Living Archives Project on Eugenics in Western Canada, brought together early-career scholars interested in eugenics to discuss historical models and forms of "Newgenics."



NEWS

▶ [US Science Academies Take on Human-Genome Editing](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Sara Reardon, *Nature*

The academies will hold an international summit this autumn, and establish a working group to develop a consensus statement.

▶ [Academies Wrestle with Germline Editing](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Alex Philippidis, *Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News*

"We need many Asilomar-type meetings" and participants should include "both scholars and non-scholars — people from public interest organizations of different kinds, labor unions, community groups, and church groups."

▶ [DNA 'Printing' A Big Boon To Research, But Some Raise Concerns](#)

[With CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Rob Stein, *NPR*

"Heinz talks openly about everybody being able to create entirely novel creatures... Do we want the teenager next door to be creating Godzilla in the bathtub? I don't want that."

▶ [A Note on Genome Editing](#)

by John P. Holdren, *Office of Science and Technology Policy*

The Administration believes that altering the human germline for clinical purposes is a line that should not be crossed at this time.

▶ [The Lessons of Asilomar for Today's Science](#)

by Alexander Capron, *The New York Times*

Four decades ago, concerns about the science of recombinant DNA led to a global moratorium on cutting-edge research.

▶ [National Academies Will Meet to Guide 'Gene Editing' Research](#)

by Lisa M. Krieger, *San Jose Mercury News*

The landmark conference will gather researchers and other experts. One

observer warns, "This is an ethical, social and human issue, not a technological issue. I don't think the scientists are the right people to be addressing it."

▶ [Why We Need To Talk Now About The Brave New World Of Editing Genes](#)

by Carey Goldberg, *WBUR*

Suddenly, it's no longer purely science fiction that humankind will have the ability to tinker with its own gene pool. But should it?

▶ [Let's Talk About the Ethics of Germline Modification](#)

by Gregor Wolbring, *Impact Ethics*

We need clarity about where the public discussion should take place, what exactly it should focus on, and who should participate.

▶ [Eugenics Lurk in the Shadow of CRISPR](#)

by Robert Pollack, *Science*

This opening to germline modification is, simply put, the opening of a return to the agenda of eugenics: the positive selection of "good" versions of the human genome and the weeding out of "bad" versions.

▶ [Francis Collins on CRISPR: "Designer Babies Make Great Hollywood — And Bad Science"](#)

by Julia Belluz, *Vox*

There's a strong consensus that is a line we should not cross.

▶ [Public Polling on Human Genetic Modification: Mixed, but Favor Moratorium](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

The results make a case for more inclusion of the public in the dialogue on the use of gene editing in humans.

▶ [The Genome Engineering Revolution](#)

by Ryan Clarke and James Hyun, *Tech Crunch*

A brief introduction to the CRISPR-cas9 system.

▶ [Gene Editing of Human Embryos – More Ethical Questions to Answer](#)

by Dr Calum MacKellar, *BioNews*

It is clear that the safety and efficiency of gene-editing procedures on early embryos give rise to significant biomedical challenges. Ethical questions also need to be addressed.

▶ [Does Biotech Need Limits?](#)

by Azeen Ghorayshih, *BuzzFeed News*

A group of the world's top scientists and bioethicists just got together to hammer out the goals and limits of 21st-century biotechnology. And

some of them really, really don't agree.

▶ [**The New Ethical Frontier: DIY Eugenics**](#)

by Michael Cook, *MercatorNet*

A disruptive technology promises both medical advances and moral controversy.

▶ [**UC, MIT Battle Over Patent to Gene-Editing Tool**](#)

by Lisa M. Krieger, *San Jose Mercury News*

UC Berkeley's Jennifer Doudna filed for a patent first. But in a shocking turn of events, MIT and Zhang won last month, earning the patent that covers use of CRISPR in every species except bacteria.

▶ [**Regulate Gene Editing in Wild Animals**](#)

by Jeantine Lunshof, *Nature World View*

Unless properly regulated and contained, this research has the potential to rapidly alter ecosystems in irreversible and damaging ways.

▶ [**So You're Related to Charlemagne? You and Every Other Living European...**](#)

by Adam Rutherford, *The Guardian*

The advent of cheap genetic sequencing has given birth to a burgeoning ancestry industry. But before you pay to spit in a tube, let me give you a few facts for free.

▶ [**Study Reveals Shortcomings in Gene Testing; Results on Estimating Disease Risk Often Conflict**](#)

by Marilyn Marchione, *Associated Press*

The first report from a big public-private project to improve genetic testing reveals it is not as rock solid as many people believe.

▶ [**Weighing The Promises Of Big Genomics**](#)

by David Dobbs, *BuzzFeed*

Your DNA may be up for sale. And the sale depends on an exaggerated picture of genetic power and destiny.

▶ [**U.S. Introduces New DNA Standard for Ensuring Accuracy of Genetic Tests**](#)

by Robert Pear, *The New York Times*

The National Institute of Standards and Technology has developed "reference materials" that could be used by laboratories to determine whether their machines and software are properly analyzing a person's genome.

▶ [**Is DNA the Next Frontier in Privacy?**](#)

by Nikhil Swaminathan, *Aljazeera America*

The president has called for a million people to volunteer their DNA sequences, health records and sensor tracking data, but the government is mum on how it will protect their privacy.

▶ [Microbiomes Raise Privacy Concerns](#)

by Ewen Callaway, *Nature News*

Call it a "gut print." The collective DNA of the microbes that colonize a human body can uniquely identify someone, researchers have found, raising privacy issues.

▶ [The Feminist History of Surrogacy: Should Pregnancy Give a Woman Rights Over a Baby?](#)

by Glosswitch, *New Statesman*

Our current thinking, with its impulse towards gender neutrality and the insistence that female reproduction isn't inherently different from its male counterpart, is flawed.

▶ [Do Most Women Who Get Fertility Treatments Take on Debt to Do It?](#)

by Neil Shah, *Wall Street Journal*

Nearly half of women who were going through or had gone through fertility treatments took on over \$10,000 in debt, according to a new survey.

▶ [Is it Time to Question the Ethics of Donor Conception?](#)

by Olivia Gordonith, *The Telegraph*

Donor-conceived children now have the right to identify their genetic parents. But for some, the change came too late, and not knowing can be "excruciatingly painful."

▶ [Unregistered Surrogate-Born Children Creating 'Legal Timebomb', Judge Warns](#)

by Owen Bowcott, *The Guardian*

Without a court-sanctioned parental order and improved international legal frameworks, children could end up "stateless and parentless."

▶ [The Ethics of International Surrogacy](#)

by Anne Schiff, *The Jerusalem Post*

Sometimes it takes a tragedy to draw public attention to otherwise unconsidered problems. The recent earthquakes in Nepal, and their consequences for Israelis hiring surrogate mothers there, represent such an instance.

▶ [Fertility Industry in Dire Need of Oversight](#)

by Editorial, *The Washington Examiner*

Recent clashes highlight the necessity of revisiting the ethical and legal questions at the heart of a business that's based on the creation and

commercialization of human beings.

▶ [**U.S. Couple Stuck in Mexico Due to Surrogacy Snafu**](#)

by Rafael Romo, *CNN*

An American couple who say they have been stuck in Mexico for weeks because officials there won't provide a birth certificate for their son believe a resolution could be close.

▶ [**Here's a Greek Business That's Booming: Making Test-Tube Babies**](#)

by Maria Petrakis, *Bloomberg*

"There might be a financial crisis, but people will still pay to get a child when they want one."

▶ [**Do We Really Need an Even Better Prenatal Test for Down Syndrome?**](#)

by Chris Kaposy, *Impact Ethics*

Because of their ease of use and their non-invasiveness, the new non-invasive prenatal tests for Down syndrome could contribute to increased numbers of selective terminations of pregnancy.

▶ [**Stem Cell 'Wild West' Takes Root Amid Lack of US Regulation**](#)

by Matthew Perrone, *Associated Press*

More than 170 US clinics are selling experimental stem cell procedures — a mushrooming industry that has flourished despite little evidence of its safety or effectiveness.

▶ [**\\$15 Million for Calimmune and California Stem Cell HIV Trial**](#)

by David Jensen, *California Stem Cell Report*

Calimmune, Inc., which has received \$8.3 million from the California stem cell agency, announced it has rustled up another \$15 million to help out with the work that the agency is backing.

▶ [**The University of Minnesota's Medical Research Mess**](#)

by Carl Elliott, *The New York Times*

Rather than dealing forthrightly with these ethical breaches, university officials have seemed more interested in covering up wrongdoing with a variety of underhanded tactics.

▶ [**Science is Often Flawed. It's Time we Embraced That.**](#)

by Julia Belluz and Steven Hoffman, *Vox*

That science can fail shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone. It's a human construct, after all. And if we simply accepted that science often works imperfectly, we'd be better off.

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