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## CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

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VIEWS & NEWS

January 29, 2016

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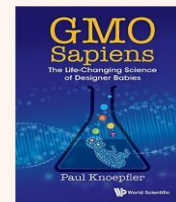
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

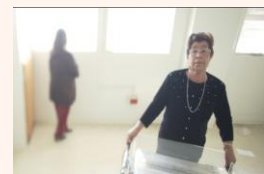
### [Online NOW: Paul Knoepfler and Nathaniel Comfort's \*Talking Biopolitics\* Web Conversation](#)

In case you missed the fascinating conversation about Paul Knoepfler's new book [GMO Sapiens: The Life-Changing Science of Designer Babies](#), it's now online [here](#).



### [Join us for a Screening and Discussion of \*No Más Bebés\*, February 16](#)

Next up in [Being Human in the Biotech Age film series](#), is a screening of [No Más Bebés](#), followed by an in-person discussion with filmmakers Renee Tajima-Peña and Virginia Espino. [RSVP on Facebook](#) for updates and more info!



### [Deadline for Submissions on Genome Editing to UK Advisory Group, February 1](#)

The deadline for submissions to the UK [Nuffield Council on Bioethics](#) for their [working group on genome editing](#) is Monday, February 1. One section of the "call for evidence" is on [Biomedical research and human applications](#).



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## [California Stem Cell Agency Meeting on Human Gene Editing, February 4](#)

California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's Standards Working Group will hold a [workshop on human gene editing](#) and policy on February 4 in Los Angeles. Live audio via conference call will be available. See David Jensen's coverage [here](#).



## CGS COMMENTARY

### [Who's Looking to Profit from Human Germline Changes?](#)

by Pete Shanks

Billionaire Randal Kirk has assembled the components to commercialize heritable human genetic modification.



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### [A Monkey Circles in a Cage](#)

by Elliot Hosman

Researchers created transgenic monkeys with a gene duplication associated with Rett Syndrome in humans, raising concerns about the limits and ethics of using animal models in biomedical research.



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### [Genetic Issues at the London Sperm Bank](#)

by George Estreich, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

The policy of turning away potential sperm donors with infectious diseases and "genetic issues" signals to people living with dyslexia, autism, ADHD, and other human variation that they are unwanted in the present and the future.



## CGS in the NEWS

## [The Battle Over CRISPR Could Make Or Break Some Biotech](#)

### ▶ [Companies](#)

[Cites CGS' Marcy Darnovsky]

by Farai Chideya, *FiveThirtyEight*

CRISPR is caught up in public offerings and a patent dispute. If used to "edit" heritable traits, it could lead us into a world of genetic haves and have-nots.

## ▶ [Creativity Week: Playing God with CRISPR](#)

[cites CGS' Elliot Hosman]

by Aubrey Sanders, *BreakThru Radio*

Elliot Hosman discusses one of the most profoundly consequential debates modern science has ever faced.

## [Why Morphological Freedom Is a Fantasy: Your Body Isn't Just Your](#)

### ▶ [Own](#)

[Cites CGS]

by Sarah Sloat, *Inverse*

Transhumanists claim complete freedom to modify their bodies, but that absolutist stance could endanger future generations.

## NEWS

### ▶ [Human Genetic Alteration and Gold Mines: California's Stem Cell Agency Takes a Hard Look at Research Standards](#)

by David Jensen, *California Stem Cell Report*

The \$3 billion California stem cell agency will convene a livestreamed day-long meeting to examine agency policies dealing with human gene editing.

### ▶ [Will creating monkeys with autism-like symptoms be any use?](#)

by Sam Wong, *New Scientist*

Researchers are divided on whether a condition like autism can be meaningfully reproduced in monkeys.

▶ [CRISPR Patent War: Billions at Stake for UC Berkeley](#)

by Lindsey Hoshaw, *KQED*

Whoever gets the patent will set the terms for how the technology is used.

▶ [Could DTC Genome Testing Exacerbate Research Inequities?](#)

by Christine Aicardi, Maria Damjanovicova, Lorenzo Del Savio, Federica Lucivero,

Maru Mormina, Maartje Niezen & Barbara Prainsack, *The Hastings Center Report*

The expansion of 23andMe's database as a resource for genetic science may aggravate existing biases in disease research, leading to impoverished knowledge and exacerbated inequalities.

▶ [We Need More Proof That Prenatal Gene Screens Are Beneficial](#)

by The Editors, *Scientific American*

Blood tests are becoming safer for pregnant women but companies are not telling the whole truth about false positives as they expand testing to lower risk pregnancies.

▶ [The Secret Lives of Egg Donors: The Strange Hell Women Go Through to Donate Their Eggs](#)

by Colette Shade, *VICE Broadly*

We Are Egg Donors serves as an online repository of stories about the strange hell women put themselves through to receive that lump sum.

▶ [Mexico's Booming Business of Producing Babies for Foreigners Is About To Go Bust](#)

by Gabriela Gorbea, *VICE News*

A reform approved by Tabasco's congress removes the surrogacy boom's main two markets — childless foreigners in general, and childless foreign gay couples in particular.

▶ [Viet Nam welcomes its first surrogate baby](#)

by VNS, *Viet Nam News*

In Viet Nam, only close relatives may act as surrogates, and the intended mother must be unable to have children for health reasons.

▶ [Italy Considers Civil Unions — But May Add Penalties for Surrogacy](#)

by Trudy Ring, *The Advocate*

As Italy's Parliament prepares to debate a civil unions bill, some lawmakers have proposed an amendment punishing couples who use overseas surrogates to become parents.

▶ [Minor crimes could land your DNA in N.J. database](#)

by S.P. Sullivan, *NJ*

Gov. Chris Christie signed a bill to expand the State Police DNA database by requiring DNA samples for "disorderly persons" offenses upon conviction.

▶ [End of the 'Test Tube Baby' as New Technique Allows IVF Fertilisation in Womb](#)

by Sarah Knapton, *The Telegraph*

The technique involves placing egg and sperm cells into a tiny silicone capsule and inserting it into the womb.

▶ [Down's Syndrome people risk 'extinction' at the hands of science, fear and ignorance](#)

by Tim Stanley, *The Telegraph*

The true moral test of a society is not how pretty, sober or well organised it is – but how it treats its most vulnerable, even its most difficult, citizens.

▶ ['No Más Bebés': Documentary Highlights History of Forced Sterilizations in L.A.](#)

by Sonali Kolkhatkar, *TruthDig*

The film covers a grisly era of California history—the forced sterilization of untold numbers of poor, mostly Latino, Spanish-speaking women in the 1960s and 70s.

▶ [The United States Once Sterilized Tens of Thousands -- Here's How the Supreme Court Allowed It](#)

by Trevor Burrus, *Medium*

A lucid and accurate discussion of Buck v. Bell, what led up to it, and its consequences both personal and political.

▶ ['Races of Mankind' Sculptures, Long Exiled, Return to Display at Chicago's Field Museum](#)

by Jennifer Schuessler, *The New York Times*

The bronzes, unveiled in 1933 as "the finest racial portraiture the world has yet seen," were banished to storage in 1969 as relics of discredited ideas about human difference.

