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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

BIOPOLITICAL VIEWS & NEWS

February 19, 2015

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[Next week : Talking Biopolitics with Nathaniel Comfort and Alexandra Minna Stern](#)

Friday, February 27, 11am PT / 2pm ET / 19:00 GMT

Please mark your calendars for a live — and lively — online conversation with Alexandra Minna Stern and Nathaniel Comfort. Both have thought deeply, and written widely, about the history and future of human genetics and eugenics.



[Global Surrogacy Practices, a Center for Genetics and Society Report](#)

The report is based on presentations and discussions at the International Forum on Intercountry Adoption and Global Surrogacy, a landmark conference that brought together nearly 100 scholars, women's health and human rights advocates, and policymakers from 27 countries in The Hague, Netherlands.

[Britain is on the Brink of a Perilous Vote for 'Three-Person In Vitro Fertilization'](#)

by Marcy Darnovsky and Jessica Cussins, *Los Angeles Times*

Crossing this threshold raises a profound societal question that until now has been hypothetical: As biotechnologies improve and enable us to make more specific genetic changes in our offspring, how far will we go?

[Mitochondrial Mission Creep and the Cloning Connection](#)

by Pete Shanks

Shoukhrat Mitalipov wants to use nuclear genome transfer for age-related infertility. He has joined forces with the disgraced stem cell researcher Hwang Woo-suk.

[Of Clocks and Mammoths: The Pitch for De-Extinction](#)

by George Estreich, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

De-extinction raises a host of questions: ethical, practical, philosophical. But for advocates, there's a rhetorical question as well: How do you persuade a lay audience to support the project?

[Les Vertiges Du Transhumanisme](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky and *Biopolitical Times* contributor Pete Shanks]

by Corine Lesnes, *Le Monde*

"They're selling us technology as if it were a total blessing, but the result could well be that what we take for high-tech marvels are in fact the instrument of power exercised by a few over the rest of us."

[UK Set to Legalize Babies With DNA From 3 Parents](#)

[With CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

KQED Radio

A radio show discusses the technology and explores whether the U.S. and other countries may follow Britain's lead.

[Stem Cell Pioneer Joins Forces with Stem Cell Fraudster](#)

by Ahn Mi-Young and Dennis Normile, *Science Insider*

Hwang said they will place their laboratory in China to avoid Korea's strict bioethics regulations.

[Scientist Who Pioneered 'Three-Parent' IVF Embryo Technique Now Wants to Offer it to Older Women Trying For a Baby](#)

by Steve Connor, *The Independent*

The biobank holds blood taken with the prick of a heel from Shoukhrat Mitalipov wants to use "mitochondrial transfer" as a fertility treatment.

[Top 10 Myths About 3-Person IVF Mitochondrial Transfer](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

Although well-intentioned, this technology could end up doing far more harm than good, especially if implemented too soon.

[Three-Parent Embryos: Medical World Falls Out Over Eggs, Cells and Terminology](#)

by Steve Connor, *The Independent*

Professor Stuart Newman claims that the commonly used terms are misnomers designed to make it easier for the public to accept the process.

[Blog: Three Parent IVF](#)

by Dr Trevor Stammers, *St Mary's University Blog*

At our current stage of understanding of the interactions between mitochondrial and nuclear DNA, this proposed new therapy could turn out to be a monstrous mistake.

[ADF to European Parliament: UK 'Three-Parent Embryo' Legislation Illegal](#)

Global Dispatch

Couples can be helped without tampering with the building blocks of humanity. The issue comes down to fundamental human rights and the constitutional traditions of the member states.

[Three Parent Babies: Unethical, Unnecessary, Unsafe](#)

by Philippa Taylor, *BioNews*

The risks these new experiments hold for the lives and health of human embryos, children and egg donors, and the unprecedented modification of the human germline, together provide a case for not crossing this Rubicon.

[Precision Medicine Has Imprecise Ethics](#)

by Craig Klugman, *Bioethics.net*

Will precision medicine increase or decrease health disparities? Will having a certain genetic subtype of a disease increase or decrease stigmatization of the disease?

[The Problem with Precision Medicine](#)

by Cynthia Graber, *The New Yorker*

As scientists continue to draw connections between DNA data and health outcomes, the problem of interpretability grows.

[EFF to Supreme Court: The Fourth Amendment Covers DNA Collection](#)

Press Release, *Electronic Frontier Foundation*

People have a Fourth Amendment right to privacy when it comes to their genetic material, the Electronic Frontier Foundation argues in an amicus brief filed this week with the Supreme Court.

[A primer on DNA forensics](#)

by Blair Crawford, *Ottawa Citizen*

Improved technology and automation means DNA profiles can now be done in a matter of days and, in the future, the wait could be reduced to just hours. But DNA evidence is hardly infallible.

[Forensics Specialist Discusses a Discipline in Crisis](#)

by Daniel Cressey, *Nature News*

The judiciary are certainly concerned about some of the evidence types that are appearing in their courtrooms. That's borne out by the rulings they are making.

[Egg-Freezing? Put Flex Time, Daycare First](#)

by Jacqueline Nelson, *The Globe and Mail*

What exactly do we expect women to do to their bodies to become the ideal employee?

[Buying Time: How Egg Freezing has Moved into the Mainstream](#)

by Carly Weeks, *The Globe and Mail*

There are questions about what exactly women are buying. Don't expect to find the answers in the waiting-room pamphlets of fertility clinics.

[Gay Couple Stuck in Mexican Legal Limbo After Birth of Surrogate Twins](#)

by Verónica Calderón, *El Pais*

They cannot secure passports for their children, given that the state of Tabasco recognizes surrogate births, while the government department responsible for Mexican passport applications does not.

[It's Illegal to Pay a Surrogate Mother in Canada. So What Would Motivate a Woman to do it?](#)

by Denise Balkissoon, *The Globe and Mail*

They show a curious mix of altruism and omnipotence: These are women who give up their very bodies for complete strangers, but only after choosing a lucky few from the desperate hordes.

[Whole-Genome Sequencing Now Possible for IVF](#)

Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News

Scientists have developed a whole-genome sequencing method that uses cell biopsies from in vitro embryos to scan for potentially detrimental mutations.

Beyond the Genome

Editorial, *Nature*

Studies of the epigenomic signatures of many healthy and diseased human tissues could provide crucial information to link genetic variation and disease.

Genes Tell Only Part of the Story

by Abigail Zuger, *The New York Times*

Genes are seldom the whole story behind illness, and are possibly not even the sternest of the medical fates that control us.

The Unknown Limits of Synthetic Biology

by Helia Ighani, *Council on Foreign Relations*

The greatest risk to U.S. national security is bioterrorism and the deliberate misuse of synthetic biology.

Could 'Superdonors' Make Replacement Organs That Work In Anyone?

by Luke Timmerman, *Forbes*

Scientists have known for years there are people in the world with a rare gift—their cells look innocuous to the immune systems of many other people. What if they became “superdonors?”

Meeting Review of Unique Stem Cell Ethics Symposium @UCDAVIS

by Paul Knoepfler, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

The participants included numerous patients and patient advocates, bioethicists, stem cell researchers, physicians, attorneys, institutional compliance officers, and more.

Big Data and Privacy Rights

by Xavier Symons, *BioEdge*

A review of the British Government's "care.data" scheme has found that the existing privacy framework needs major revision.

Human DNA Enlarges Mouse Brains

by Elizabeth Pennisi, *Science*

Researchers have increased the size of mouse brains by giving the rodents a piece of human DNA that controls gene activity. The work provides some evidence for how the human intellect surpassed those of other apes.

Internet of DNA

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*

A global network of millions of genomes could be medicine's next great advance, but important challenges remain.