

To ensure delivery, please add info@geneticsandsociety.org to your address book or contacts.



CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

February 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

[Save the Date: 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.



RSVP

[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.



CGS COMMENTARY

[Comment on House of Commons Vote Approving the Germline Engineering Technique "3-Person IVF"](#)

[Press Release]

MPs approve technique despite more than 40 countries and several international human rights treaties that prohibit inheritable genetic modification.

[Center for Genetics and Society Releases Open Letter to UK Members of Parliament as Vote on "Mitochondrial Donation" Approaches](#)

[Press Release]

Five things MPs should know about “mitochondrial donation” before casting a vote.



[Precision Medicine in Context](#)

by Pete Shanks

President Obama's proposal for a Precision Medicine Initiative – which echoes President Nixon's "War on Cancer" – should start a conversation that includes lots of questions.

[FDA Regulation and Early Prenatal Testing](#)

by George Estreich, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

The information that accompanies prenatal testing should be accurate, complete, useful, and most of all nondirective. The ads for early prenatal tests do not meet these criteria.

[Who Needs a Synthetic Biological “Safety Lock”?](#)

by Pete Shanks

Two papers published simultaneously in Nature on January 21 describe a novel strategy for biocontainment, involving a strain of E. Coli that is dependent on a synthetic amino acid.

NEWS

▶ [Breaking Down The Science Of '3-Parent Babies' \[Video\]](#)

[With CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Alyona Minkovski, *HuffPost Live*

The U.K. has approved creating babies with the DNA of three different people. Here's a breakdown of the pros, cons and controversy.

[U.K. Parliament Approves Controversial Three-Parent](#)

▶ [Mitochondrial Gene Therapy](#)

[With CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Gretchen Vogel and Erik Stokstad, *Science*

Despite warnings from scientists, the United Kingdom's House of Commons voted to allow British researchers to pursue a new fertility treatment that could prevent certain kinds of genetic diseases.

▶ [Three-Person IVF: Science Shows Ethical Questions Remain Unanswered](#)

by Ted Morrow, *The Conversation*

Bioethicists, policy makers and the general public need to appreciate that genes act in networks and if edited may have unpredictable effects on processes and traits.

▶ [Big Push for 3-parent Technology in UK: Some Thoughts From the Other Side](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

We cannot at this time have a reasonable expectation that this technology would be safe and effective.

▶ [Big Precision Medicine Plan Raises Patient Privacy Concerns](#)

by Dina Fine Maron, *Scientific American*

Tailor-made medicine for patients around the U.S. is getting a boost from a \$215-million presidential initiative, but the undertaking is fraught with concerns.

▶ ['Moonshot' Medicine Will Let Us Down](#)

by Michael J. Joyner, *The New York Times*

President Obama's new budget is expected to include hundreds of millions of dollars for so-called precision medicine. Unfortunately, this is unlikely to make most of us healthier.

▶ [Obama Precision Medicine Plan Would Create Huge U.S. Genetic Biobank](#)

by Jocelyn Kaise, *Science Insider*

The proposed precision medicine initiative would center on a huge new biobank containing medical records and genetic information for perhaps a million Americans.

▶ [Obama Thinks "Precision Medicine" Will Make Us Healthier. Experts are Skeptical.](#)

by Julia Belluz, *Vox*

Getting targeted therapies and treatments into the hands of most Americans is much further afield than Obama might like to admit.

▶ [U.S. Proposes Effort to Analyze DNA from 1 Million People](#)

by Toni Clarke and Sharon Begley, *Reuters*

At the heart of the "precision medicine" initiative is the creation of a pool of people who would be studied to learn how genetic variants affect health and disease.

▶ [Obama to Request Research Funding for Treatments Tailored to Patients' DNA](#)

by Robert Pear, *The New York Times*

President Obama will seek hundreds of millions of dollars for a new initiative to develop medical treatments tailored to genetic and other

characteristics of individual patients.

▶ [**A Week After Welcoming the Twins She Longed for, Mom, 56,**](#)

▶ [**Dies**](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Beth Greenfield, *Yahoo Parenting*

The tragic death highlights the increased risks faced by women, especially older women, who more and more are using assisted reproductive technologies to push the boundaries of fertility.

▶ [**Court Grants Kids Right to Know Donor Fathers**](#)

The Local [Germany]

The Supreme Court decided that the children of sperm donors have a right to know who their biological father is at any time.

▶ [**Positive Science on ART Babies**](#)

by Nicholas Bakalar, *New York Times Well Blog*

A large study has found that assisted reproduction technology, or ART, has markedly improved over the past 20 years, with the outcomes of these fertility treatments now better than ever.

▶ [**Battle Over Paid Surrogacy Opens New Front**](#)

by Alexandra Sifferlin, *Time*

In many states, hiring a woman to carry and give birth to a child for you is illegal. But New York Senator Brad Hoylman is fighting to change that in his home state.

▶ [**Egg Donor Loses Case Against IRS, Must Pay Taxes on Earnings**](#)

by Richard Rubin, *Bloomberg*

The U.S. Tax Court rejected a California woman's attempt to avoid taxes on the \$20,000 she received when she provided her eggs for use by infertile couples.

▶ [**Poverty, Genetics and the White American Psyche**](#)

by Tanya H. Lee, *Indian Country*

We have a history that exemplifies over and over again our contempt for other races and ethnicities based on the science of the day that interpreted them to be genetically inferior to whites.

▶ [**Why There Is No Perfect Human In Puerto Rico or Anywhere Else**](#)

by Taras K. Oleksyk and Juan Carlos Martinez-Cruzado, *Scientific American*

To criticize James Watson's infamous positions on race, a computational biologist turned to human genome data for a tongue-in-cheek "thought experiment" to find the "perfect human."

▶ [23andMe Only Heightens the Need for Genetic Counselling](#)

by Dr Joyce Harperh, *BioNews*

At no point is there any involvement from a physician or genetic counsellor to explain what is being tested for or the consequences of the results.

▶ [Millions of DNA Samples Stored in Warehouse Worry Privacy Advocates](#)

by Patrick McGreevy, *Los Angeles Times*

The biobank holds blood taken with the prick of a heel from almost every baby born in California for the last three decades.

▶ [Genetic Testing and Tribal Identity](#)

by Rose Eveleth, *The Atlantic*

The question of genetic testing, and particularly genetic testing to determine ancestral origins, is controversial for many Native Americans.

▶ [Myriad Genetics Ending Patent Dispute on Breast Cancer Risk Testing](#)

by Andrew Pollack, *The New York Times*

The company has settled or is in the process of settling patent-infringement lawsuits it filed against other companies that now offer such testing.

▶ [Stem Cell Clinics, FDA, and Giant, Unapproved For-Profit Human Experiments](#)

by Paul Knoepfler, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

The argument by for-profit clinics for stem cell deregulation and weakening of the FDA's role in regulating stem cell products is a direct challenge to our system of science-based medicine.

▶ [DNA Blood Test Gives Women A New Option For Prenatal Screening](#)

by Nell Greenfieldboyce, *National Public Radio*

The tests are being used more and more widely. Some worry that the companies' websites and marketing materials don't make the limitations clear enough.

▶ [Blood Money: Is it Wrong to Pay Donors?](#)

by Judith Harvey, *The Guardian*

In some countries, people get paid for giving blood. And in the UK, one has to buy plasma. But is safety compromised when money changes hands?

DONATE NOW
SECURE DONATIONS
BY GROUNDSPRING.org
