

07

CENTER FOR
GENETICS
AND SOCIETY

2007 REPORT ON ACTIVITIES



2007 REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

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I. CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, PRESENTATIONS AND SYMPOSIA

January 11: Patricia Berne participated in a panel on *Reproductive Justice and LGBT Communities: at the Intersections* for the LGBT Funders Network.

January 17: Emily Galpern and Susan Fogel of the Pro-Choice Alliance for Responsible Research presented *Women's Health, Rights, and Justice: Understanding New Genetic and Reproductive Technologies* to the California Women's Commission in Sacramento, CA.

January 19-21: Emily Galpern attended the National Advocates for Pregnant Women's "National Summit to Ensure the Health and Humanity of Pregnant and Birthing Women" in Atlanta, GA.

January 22: Patricia Berne presented *Genetic Technologies and Violence Against Women: What We Need to Know* at Communities Overcoming Relationship Abuse in Burlingame, CA.

February 15-16: Jesse Reynolds attended and commented at meetings of the governing board of the California stem cell research program

February 20: CGS convenes *A Conversation between Movements: PGD and its Implications*, a roundtable discussion between reproductive rights and disability rights leaders.

February 26: Patricia Berne presented a tele-briefing on *Disability in the Gene Age: Social Justice and Reproductive Technologies* to the American Association of People with Disabilities in Washington, DC.

February 21: Emily Galpern and Sujatha Jesudason presented a conference call briefing on *Genetics and Justice: Implications of New Genetic and Reproductive Technologies* to staff of the National Health Law Program in Los Angeles, DC, and North Carolina.

March 2: Richard Hayes presented at a Hill briefing on Francis Fukuyama's *Beyond Bioethics* organized by the New America Foundation, in Washington, DC.

March 3: Patricia Berne presented *Women of Color in the Gene Age: Present and Future Concerns* to the Empowering Women of Color Conference at UC Berkeley.

March 9: Emily Galpern and Osagie Obasogie presented *New Genetic and Reproductive Technologies: Considerations, Concerns, and Consequences for Reproductive Justice* at the Law Students for Choice national conference at Stanford University in Palo Alto, CA.

March 22-24: Jamie D. Brooks attended the *Facing Race, Racial Justice Conference* sponsored by The Applied Research Center in New York City.

March 28: Osagie Obasogie spoke on "Prisons as Biocolonies: Race, Biomedicine, and the Ethics of Using Prisoners as Research Subjects" at [*The Business of Race and Science*](#), a conference sponsored by the Center for the Study of Diversity in Science, Technology and Medicine at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

March 31: Emily Galpern facilitated a Strategic Action Session with Choice USA entitled *The High Cost of Eggs: Educating Young Women Targeted for Egg Donation* and presented on a panel at Hampshire College Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program's annual reproductive rights conference "From Abortion Rights to Social Justice."

April 2: Jamie D. Brooks attended the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network meeting *Planning for a Healthier Tomorrow* in Oakland, California.

April 11: Jamie D. Brooks attended the *Special Research Initiatives Stakeholder Meeting* at the UCSF Mission Bay Conference Center in San Francisco, California.

April 21: Sujatha Jesudason presented *Building a Road to Reproductive and Genetic Justice as We Walk It: Stories from the Field* at Reproductive Technologies and Social Justice: A Feminist Political Theory Seminar at Amherst College, MA.

April 23: Sujatha Jesudason hosted an exploratory strategy on national coalition building with 12 allied organizations in New York City.

April 25: Sujatha Jesudason and Marcy Darnovsky presented at a brownbag lunch at the Center for American Progress on *The Politics of Human Biotechnologies: What Role for Government and Democratic Participation?* in Washington, DC.

April 26: Sujatha Jesudason briefed the policy and government relations staff of Planned Parenthood Federation of America in Washington, DC.

May 7: CGS organized two events with Harvard Professor of Government Michael Sandel, author of *The Case Against Perfection*: A public event attended by over 100 participants at the Berkeley City Club, and an invitational dinner for 24 at the UC Berkeley Faculty Club.

May 24-26: Marcy Darnovsky presented "Biopolitics for a Human Future" at *Nobody's Child, Everybody's Children: An International Conference on New Reproductive and Genetic Technologies*, Nanaimo, British Columbia.

May 30: Sujatha Jesudason presented on *Assisted Reproductive and Genetic Technologies at the Intersection of LGBT and Reproductive Rights* at the National Coalition Meeting of Causes in Common in Chicago, IL.

May 31: Jamie D. Brooks presented at SisterSong with Priscilla Huang of NAPAWF and Jessica Arons from CAP on: *Designer Genes and the Implications for Women of Color* at SisterSong's "Let's Talk About Sex" conference in Chicago, IL.

June 1: Emily Galpern presented with Mia Mingus of Georgians for Choice and Cara Page of the Committee on Women, Population and the Environment on *Surviving Ourselves: Unpacking Reproductive Justice, Genetic Technologies, and Eugenic* at SisterSong's "Let's Talk About Sex" conference in Chicago, IL.

June 1: Sujatha Jesudason presented on *The Future of Sex and Reproductive Technologies* on a plenary entitled Controlling Our Communities Through Our Bodies at SisterSong's "Let's Talk About Sex" conference in Chicago, IL.

June 14: CGS convened a Roundtable with disability rights and reproductive rights advocates on the notion of "personhood" as part of an ongoing dialogue between these two movements.

June 28: Jamie D. Brooks presented with Mia Mingus of Georgians for Choice on: *Designer Genes: Not Being Defined By Our DNA* at the US Social Forum in Atlanta, GA.

June 29: Jamie D. Brooks presented with Loretta Ross of SisterSong, Maria Nakae of Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, Gabriella Rodriguez of California Latinas for Reproductive Justice and Sarah Horsley of the National Network of Abortion Funds on *Neoliberalism and Reproductive Justice, that was then, this is now and this is next* at the US Social Forum in Atlanta, GA.

July 1: Jamie D. Brooks presented *Implications of New Genetic Technologies for Racial Justice Advocates* at the Race and Membership in American History Course in Hayward, CA.

July 12-13: Marcy Darnovsky attended "Progressive Bioethics Summit: Finding Common Ground," organized by the Center for American Progress and the Women's Bioethics Project, Washington, DC.

July 17-18: Sujatha Jesudason presented at the 2007 Planned Parenthood Public Affairs Retreat & Roundtable: Stand With the States: Expanding the Planned Parenthood Movement.

July 24-25: Richard Hayes presented on "New and Converging Biotechnologies: A Threshold Challenge for Humanity," at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

August 13: Richard Hayes briefed the Friends of the Earth International Executive Committee on "Converging Technologies and Ideologies" at their headquarters in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

September 15: Jamie D. Brooks presented on the keynote panel on Genetic Technologies and their implications for Women of Color at the Black Women for Wellness Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA.

September 15: Jamie D. Brooks conducted a workshop on Environmental Justice and Genetics at the Black Women for Wellness Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA.

September 25: Jamie D. Brooks presented as a member of the panel on Genetic Counseling, Testing and Research Ethics at the WE-ACT Conference on Genes and Justice, in New York City.

October 13: Jamie D. Brooks presented on the Legal Implications of Reproductive and Genetic Technologies at the Law Students for Reproductive Justice Board meeting in Washington D.C.

November 5: Jamie D. Brooks and Emily Galpern presented with Jackie Payne and Judy Norsigian on the Legal and Policy Implications of Reproductive Technologies at the American Public Health Association Meeting in Washington, D.C.

November 30-December 5: Jamie D. Brooks was an invited participant at the World Council of Churches International Bioethics Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa.

December 14: CGS and New America Foundation hosted a presentation by Shannon Brownlee, author of *Overtreated: Why Too Much Medicine is Making Us Sicker and Poorer*, at the CGS office.

II. PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

January 10 and April 10: "Federal Stem Cell Policy: Lessons from California" was sent by *Third Way: A Strategy Center for Progressives* to several hundred House offices in January and Senate offices in April, when the DeGette-Castle bill was being considered.

December 10: Publication of *Assisted Reproductive Technology: Overview and Perspective Using a Reproductive Justice Perspective*, by Emily Galpern.

III. ARTICLES AND OP-EDS

Marcy Darnovsky, "Interview with Marcy Darnovsky," Motherhood Project website (January)

Richard Hayes, "A Majoritarian Proposal for Governing Human Biotechnology," *Hastings Center Bioethics Forum* (January 3)

Osagie Obasogie and Parita Shah, "Wedge issue is back on the table," *Seattle Post Intelligencer* (January 17)

Osagie Obasogie, "Wal-Martization of Embryos," *Boston Globe* (February 1)

Patricia Berne, "Disability, Social Justice and Emerging Technologies" in the Justice For All Newsletter of the American Association of People with Disabilities (February).

Richard Hayes, "Our Biopolitical Future: Four Scenarios," cover story in *World Watch* magazine, March-April.

Marcy Darnovsky (with Susan Fogel), "Oocyte Donation for Stem Cell Research," letter in *Science* (April 20)

Osagie Obasogie, "Hypertension: What Oprah doesn't know," *Los Angeles Times* (May 17)

Osagie Obasogie, "Racial Alchemy: Bioethics and the Skin Tone Gene," *Bioethics Forum* (May 18)

Marcy Darnovsky, "Stem Cell Politics and Progressive Values," *Political Environments* (Spring-Summer)

Sujatha Jesudason, Shamita Das Dasgupta, Priscilla Huang and Rajani Bhatia interviewed by Yin Ling Leung, "Sex Selection: More than "Just a Choice": A conversation Among Activists," *Political Environments* (Spring-Summer)

Osagie Obasogie and Pete Shanks, "Unmasking the FDA's Policy on Cloned Food," *The Cutting Edge* (August 12)

Osagie Obasogie, "Gene Therapy Risky Business for Patients," *Seattle Post Intelligencer* (August 17)

Osagie Obasogie, "Racial Alchemy," *New Scientist* (August 18)

Marcy Darnovsky, "Your Gamete, Myself," letter in *New York Times Magazine* (August 26)

Osagie Obasogie and Alan M. Hornblum, "Medical Exploitation: Inmates must not become guinea pigs again," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (September 13)

Marcy Darnovsky, "Gene Therapy Death Raises Ethical Issues," *San Francisco Chronicle* (September 13)

Marcy Darnovsky and Osagie Obasogie, "Picking nits or learning lessons? Defensiveness on Display in Gene Therapy Death," *Bioethics Forum* (September 17)

Osagie Obasogie, "The Rebirth of a Nation?," *ColorLines* (September/October)

Jesse Reynolds, "Google Wants to Track Your Medical History - And Your Genome," *AlterNet* (September 20)

Osagie Obasogie & Pete Shanks, "Food from cloned animals: a bait and switch?," *San Francisco Chronicle* (October 6)

Marcy Darnovsky, "A Future of Genetically Modified Humans," *Alternet.com* (October 19)

Jesse Reynolds, "In Home Genetic Tests Represent Risk," *Newsday* (October 22)

Marcy Darnovsky, "Watson's Dark Vision," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (November 5)

Richard Hayes, "Beyond the embryo fight: A recent stem-cell breakthrough negates the need for research using human embryos," *Los Angeles Times* (November 22). Reprinted in *China Post* (Nov. 24), *The Peninsula* (Qatar; Nov. 24), *Las Cruces News* (Nov. 25), *Baltimore Sun* (Nov. 26), *The Recorder* (NY; Nov. 26), and *Honolulu Advertiser* (Nov. 26).

Marcy Darnovsky, "Stem-cell science outruns political debate," *San Jose Mercury News* (November 23)

Richard Hayes, "Cloning Concerns" [letter], *Washington Post* (November 24)

Jesse Reynolds, "Undue influence at the stem cell institute," *San Francisco Chronicle* (November 28)

Jesse Reynolds, "A Solution to One Prop 71 Flaw " [letter], *Los Angeles Times*, (December 17).

IV. CGS IN THE NEWS

In Print and on the Web:

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "UK Stem Cell Vote: It's decision time for "hybrid" human-animal embryos," Marisa Taylor, *Red Herring* (January 5)

CGS was cited in "Century Foundation Offers A Primer On The Complex Issues In The Stem Cell Debate," *Medical News Today* (January 13)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "'Embryo bank': new hope or too far?," Amanda Paulson, *Christian Science Monitor* (January 18)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Democrats seeking to drive stem cell wedge in Minn., N.H.," Aaron Blake, *The Hill* (January 18)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Payment for Stem Cell Eggs Debated," Malcolm Ritter, *Associated Press* (January 20)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Stem Cell Reality Check," Malcolm Maclachlan, *Capitol Weekly* (January 23)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Runner, Kuehl preparing stem-cell legislation," Malcolm Maclachlan, *Capitol Weekly* (February 1)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "New international guidelines for stem cell science," Aria Pearson, *New Scientist* (February 1)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "The Gatekeeper," Kara Platoni, *East Bay Express* (February 28)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Institute will comply on all but one request," Terri Somers, *San Diego Union Tribune* (February 28)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Stem cell agency says it has fixed spending lapses," Carl Hall, *San Francisco Chronicle* (March 1)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Designing Your Baby," Scott McCredie, *MSN Health and Fitness* (March 12)

CGS was cited in "Delay is urged on stem cell cloning grant," Carl Hall, *San Francisco Chronicle* (March 23)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Stem cell grant OKd for L.A. center linked to allegation," Mary Engel, *LA Times* (March 26)

Emily Galpern was interviewed with Debora Spar by the *New England Journal of Medicine* for a web-based audio interview (March 29 issue).

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Calif. stem cell grant raises concerns," Kristin Weir, *The Scientist* (March 26)

Richard Hayes was cited in "Robo-quandary:Marquette professor looks at growing debate of using technology to enhance humans," Mark Johnson, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (May 8)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Women Hedge Bets by Banking Their Eggs," Rob Stein, *Washington Post* (May 13)

Sujatha Jesudason was cited in "Genetic Testing + Abortion = ???" by Amy Harmon, *New York Times* (May 13)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Firm says test can tell fetus' sex at 6 weeks," by Maria Cheng of the Associated Press (May 16) (Article appeared in 96 outlets as of 11:30 am May 16)

Osagie Obasogie was cited in "Genes Make a Medical Difference," a letter to the editor by Dr. Mehmet Oz, *Los Angeles Times* (May 24)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Stem cell institute bonds can be issued," Terri Somers, *San Diego Union Tribune* (May 25)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in an article by Allison Cross in *Nanaimo Daily News* (May 25)

Sujatha Jesudason was cited in "Designer Babies and the Pro-Choice Movement," Rebecca Tuhus-Dubrow, *Dissent* (June)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Cracking Cloning," *The Scientist* (July)

Sujatha Jesudason was cited in "Genetic Disorder," *In These Times* (July 6)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "A 'Wild West' way of telling baby's sex?" Rita Rubin, *USA Today* (July 17)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "The Company Who Cried Clinical Trial: Geron's Unfulfilled Stem Cell Promises," Brandon Keim, *Wired* blog (July 23)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Death Points to Risks in Research," Rick Weiss, *Washington Post* (August 6)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Home DNA tests: When you just have to know," Victoria Colliver, *San Francisco Chronicle* (August 21)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Google and Microsoft Want Your DNA," Brandon Keim, *Wired Science* (September 27)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Researchers Detour Around Stem-Cell Rules Thwarted by regulations on egg donation for research, scientists craft new ways to manufacture embryos," Bijal Trivedi, *Chronicle of Higher Education* (October 1)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Stem cell chief a top scientist," Jim Downing, *Sacramento Bee* (October 5)

Patricia Berne was cited in "Genetic Drift," Ziba Kashef, *ColorLines* (Sept/Oct)

Patricia Berne was cited in "Genetics and 'Race'," Andrew Sullivan, *The Daily Dish* (October 20)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Defeat in N.J. of stem cell initiative raises alarm ," Terri Somers, *San Diego Union Tribune* (November 11)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Researchers Turn Skin Cells Into Stem Cells," Gretchen Vogel, *ScienceNOW* (November 20)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "Stem Cell Breakthrough Is Like 'Turning Lead Into Gold'," Brandon Keim, *Wired News* (November 20)

CGS was cited in "Too Soon to Give Up on Embryonic Stem Cells," Brandon Keim, *Wired Science Blog* (November 20)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "UCSF researcher successfully creates stem cells from human skin," *San Francisco Examiner* (November 20)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Scientists turn human skin cells into stem cells in breakthrough," Sabin Russell, *San Francisco Chronicle* (November 21)

CGS was cited in "Method with skin mimics stem cells without embryos," Todd Ackerman, *Houston Chronicle* (November 21)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Stem-cell advance opens up the field," Peter N. Spotts, *Christian Science Monitor* (November 23)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "President Bush Takes Credit for Stem Cell Breakthrough," Brandon Keim, *Wired Science Blog* (November 26)

CGS was cited in "Grants are focus of third audit of stem cell institute," Terri Somers, *San Diego Union Tribune* (November 28)

Richard Hayes was cited in "Stem-ing the Debate," Eesha Pandit, *RH Reality Check* (November 30)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in "New Source of Stem Cells Found," Mengfei Chan, *New University Online* (December 3)

Jesse Reynolds was cited in "Shrink-wrapped genes: DNA Direct of S.F. offers consumer service," Victoria Colliver, *San Francisco Chronicle* (December 5)

TV/Radio:

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in a segment on stem cells from amniotic fluid, KGO TV - ABC7 Evening News (January 7)

Sujatha Jesudason was cited in "Parents Want Genetic Test for Disease to Choose Baby's Gender," Lonny Shavelson, *Voice of America* (January 17)

Marcy Darnovsky was cited in a segment on eggs for research, KSRO-AM Morning News (January 24)

Marcy Darnovsky was interviewed by Art Blazer on blood test for fetal sex at 6 weeks on ABC Radio Network News (May 15)

Osagie Obasogie was interviewed by Dr. Mehmet Oz on *Oprah and Friends Radio*, XM Satellite Radio Channel 156 (May 18)

Marcy Darnovsky was interviewed on KTVU TV (Oakland) about President Bush's veto of the stem cell bill (June 20)

Sujatha Jesudason was included as one of the three voices on the National Radio Project's *Reproductive Justice: Voices from SisterSong* (June 27)

Marcy Darnovsky was interviewed by Jim Thornton and Diane Thompson about monkey embryo cloning on KNX News Radio (November 16)

Jesse Reynolds was interviewed by Jim Thornton and Diane Thompson about stem cell research developments on KNX News Radio (November 20)

Jesse Reynolds was interviewed about stem cell research developments on CNN Radio Network (November 20)

Jesse Reynolds was interviewed by Patty Lee about stem cell research developments on KTVU Channel 2 (November 20)

CGS Press Advisories:

Press statement: Vote on Stem Cell Research Spotlights Need for Federal Oversight (January 10)

Press release: Public interest group welcomes bill to ensure stem cell institute's promises: Center for Genetics and Society says California agency must provide for affordable treatments and returns to the state (February 23)

Press release: Public Interest Group Calls for California Stem Cell Agency to Investigate its Controversial Grant (March 22)

Press statement: Stem cell vote in the Senate: Effort to circumvent the culture wars puts women's health at risk (April 11)

Media advisory: New Home Test for Sex of an Embryo at Six Weeks Raises Concerns: "Pink or Blue ® Gender Test" likely to lead to increase in sex selection, says public interest group (May 4)

Press release: Public Interest Group Calls for Increased Transparency and Accountability in Gene Therapy Experiments (August 2)

Press release: Public Interest Group Calls for Public Disclosures in Gene Therapy Death (August 8)

Press release: More Public Accountability Needed in Gene Therapy Death, Says Public Interest Group Center: for Genetics and Society Calls for Moratorium on Enrolling Some Patients (September 17)

Media advisory: Still Unnoticed: James Watson's Eugenic Enthusiasms (October 22)

Press release: Monkey Cloning Raises Troubling Questions Unconnected to the Status of Embryos: Legislation is needed to prohibit reproductive cloning and reduce risks to women who provide eggs (November 15)

Press release: Cloning-based stem cell research should be "put on the back burner": Public interest group says cell reprogramming tips the balance (November 23)

Press release: Public interest group calls for CIRM Chair Robert Klein and board member John Reed to step down: Public interest group calls for CIRM Chair Robert Klein and board member John Reed to step down (November 29)

V. INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

After much development, CGS unveiled its overhauled website non July 31. It features a refined look and greatly improves the user experience by automatically cross-posting content in multiple relevant areas. CGS's hundreds of newsletter articles, blog posts, press releases, op-eds, and news articles are now much more accessible.

Quantitative reporting of web traffic is widely recognized to be difficult. Three statistical packages report that the CGS website has received 109,000, 45,000 and 27,000 visits in the same recent month. All three packages suggest that the number of visitors to our site has been increasing by about 20% annually.

CGS's monthly electronic newsletter, *Genetic Crossroads*, goes to approximately 3500 subscribers; subscriptions have been growing at about 8% a year.

CGS's blog, *Biopolitical Times*, is included in the blog rolls of many other blogs addressing biotech and genetic topics. It is integrated into our website, making visitor traffic difficult to estimate. About three posts are made each week on the CGS blog.

VI. CGS STAFF

As of December 15, 2007, CGS had 11 staff (10.75 FTE). They are:

Richard Hayes, Executive Director
Marcy Darnovsky, Associate Executive Director
Sujatha Jesudason, Associate Executive Director, Gender & Justice
Charles Garzon, Director of Finance and Administration
Patricia Berne, Project Director, Race, Disability and Eugenics
Emily Galpern, Project Director, Reproductive Health and Human Rights
Jamie Brooks, Project Director, Race, Health & Justice
Osagie Obasogie, Project Director, Bioethics, Law and Society
Jesse Reynolds, Project Director, Biotech Accountability
Leah Ottersbach, Associate, Finance and Administration
Jasmin Thana, Administrative Assistant

VII. BUDGET AND FUNDING

CGS's adjusted budget for 2007 is \$1,002,000. Current funding for CGS comes from Anonymous, Appleton Foundation, Changing Horizons, Marisla Foundation, Ford Foundation, General Services Fund, Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation, Moriah Fund, the 2032 Trust, San Francisco Women's Foundation and the Tides Foundation.

CGS FUNDING HISTORY

Year	Total Funds Raised
2000	\$165,700
2001	\$329,500
2002	\$392,400
2003	\$620,000
2004	\$609,500
2005	\$885,000
2006	\$882,650
2007	\$1,005,150