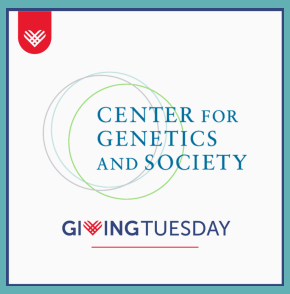
DONATE

BioPolitical News&Views

CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

November 27, 2026

SPOTLIGHT



Giving Tuesday is next week!

Because we believe in a future where everyone belongs and science benefits the common good, CGS is pushing back against Silicon Valley billionaires determined to profit from designer baby technologies. This **Giving Tuesday**, December 1, will you **support our work** to stop the new techno-eugenics? Thanks to a generous donor's match honoring CGS' 25 years, your donation makes **double** the impact!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Gallaudet University Position Statement on Gene Editing

Gallaudet University's Position Statement on Gene Editing, Gene Therapy, and Human Diversity emphasizes the importance of Deaf leadership and clearly states, "Deaf lives are not deficits to be corrected." CGS Confronting Eugenics Network member Teresa Blankmeyer Burke, who worked to develop the statement as part of Gallaudet's Gene Editing Think Tank, **told the *Washington Post***, "... the important piece here is that we need to be included in the conversation. That is essential."

COMMENTARY



The Murky World of Medical Tourism and "Three-Person IVF"

Emma McDonald Kennedy, *Biopolitical Times* | 11.25.2026

An extensive investigation published recently in *STAT* shows that "three-person IVF," an experimental and controversial fertility technique, has

become a routine offering of the reproductive tourism industry in countries that lack regulation of the practice. The piece reveals a murky web of intermediaries and clinics promoting travel abroad to access the technique as a treatment for age-related infertility, despite the risks and lack of evidence.

WHAT WE'RE READING

GENE EDITING AND GENE THERAPY | EUGENICS
SURROGACY360 | ASSISTED REPRODUCTION
US FEDERAL POLICY | VARIOUS

GENE EDITING AND GENE THERAPY

The Incredible, Elegant DNA Repair System Makes Gene Editing Work

Annie Melchor, *Quanta* | 11.23.2026

DNA's physical structures are easily damaged, but the system has built-in mechanisms for repair. Those methods are essential to developing gene editing techniques, including CRISPR and base editing. They help show why these techniques work (when they do), and where their imprecision lies.

UK to update regulatory definition of gene therapy medicines

Tsveti Stoilova, *BioNews* | 11.23.2026

After a public consultation conducted earlier this year, the UK is updating the legal definition of gene therapy to fit current therapeutic approaches, including synthetic genetic medicines and genome editing treatments that do not rely on recombinant nucleic acids.

What China's Gene-Editing Deaths Reveal About Its Biotech Industry

Jane Qiu, *Noema* | 11.18.2026

The recent scandal involving the death of a child in a gene therapy clinical trial in China exposed the country's regulatory failings, a scientific ethos that encourages hype and recklessness, and deeper societal problems surrounding disability and genetic disease. Could this be China's "Gelsinger moment"?

Chinese scientists fired after child dies in gene editing study: report

Nick Paul Taylor, *Fierce Biotech* | 11.16.2026

Chinese officials dismissed two researchers and banned them from government projects for five years due to their involvement in the death of a child in a gene editing study. Authorities found that they had undisclosed conflicts of interest, did not report a preclinical safety signal in a timely fashion, and did not properly disclose risks of death in informed consent procedures.

South Africa weighs the science and ethics of heritable genome editing

Wits University | 11.11.2026

A national dialogue held in South Africa in October began a lengthy public consultation process about heritable human genome editing. So far, the dialogue has emphasized the safety risks and ethical concerns that heritable human genome editing presents, the importance of preserving human diversity and challenging eugenic ideas, and the need for widespread public deliberation.

Babies made from stem cells. Same sex couples with no donors. This is the future of fertility

Madeline Mitchell, *USA Today* | 11.09.2026

Some researchers and companies want to make in vitro gametogenesis the next reproductive technology available to consumers, but ethicists caution that there are insurmountable safety issues

with the technique – not to mention ethical concerns and legal restrictions.

Could CRISPR cure rare diseases before birth? Scientists are getting closer

Gerry Smith, *CNBC* | 11.06.2026

Researchers are attempting to advance in utero gene therapies delivered to the fetus through the umbilical vein, with a focus on diseases that are difficult to treat after birth.

EUGENICS

Vermont truth and reconciliation draft report examines state-sanctioned harm

Calvin Cutler, *WCAX* | 11.17.2026

Vermont's Truth and Reconciliation Commission has released a draft report that details the state's role in the 1920s "eugenics survey." The survey targeted people with physical and psychiatric disabilities, French Canadian descendants, and Indigenous people. Some were institutionalized, and over 250 people were forced to undergo sterilization.

Does a high IQ make you smart?

B.A. Parker and Brittany Luse, *NPR* | 11.02.2026

"President Trump and Silicon Valley tech bros are obsessed with IQ, but the history of intelligence testing is full of bunk race science and eugenics. With the rise of AI's "super intelligence," should we still be ranking human intelligence at all?"

SURROGACY 360



Infertility: Experts seek comprehensive law on IVF, surrogacy, egg donation

Sodiq Omolaoye, *The Guardian Nigeria* | 10.25.2026

Lawmakers and fertility specialists are calling for Nigeria to adopt a comprehensive legal framework to regulate assisted reproduction, surrogacy, and egg donation. Previous efforts to pass this kind of legislation faltered, but experts urge that renewed efforts are needed to ensure that clear, enforceable policies protect the welfare of surrogates, gamete donors, and children, while also recognizing the interests of intended parents. They highlight the need to identify whether a dedicated government agency is needed to oversee fertility clinics and the importance of access, information, and psychosocial support for those undergoing fertility treatments.

ASSISTED REPRODUCTION

Hyderabad, Varanasi, Erode: How underground brokers are exploiting women for their eggs

Sarojini Nadimpally, *The Indian Express* | 11.12.2026

On paper, Indian law protects egg donors well. In reality, underground brokers continue to target economically vulnerable women, and fertility facilities seem to overlook the circumstances in which women are recruited. Donor registries and consistent evaluation of fertility clinics by regulators can help close the gap between donor protections provided by law and what donors experience in practice.

IVF Patients, Doctors Navigate Fetal Personhood Laws' Unknowns

Cheryl Platzman Weinstock, *KFF Health News* | 11.04.2026

Anti-abortion legislation that relies on the idea of fetal personhood has implications for fertility care and embryo storage. Vague laws leave room for physicians to be held liable, or even criminally charged, for standard IVF practices, including discarding embryos. Providers and patients are finding new approaches to IVF in response to these restrictive laws.

International surrogacy and the narrow legal idea of what makes a family legitimate

Katie Tonkiss, *The Conversation* | 11.04.2026
A family court decision in the UK responded to a case in which a surrogate gave birth in China, where surrogacy is banned. The case raised concerns about legal parentage and nationality, along with issues of surrogate and child welfare. It also underscores the difficulties in navigating surrogacy across national borders, especially because countries define citizenship and parentage differently – both in legal and cultural terms.

Parents Pay $80,000 for Exclusive Donor Sperm Rights to Limit Siblings

Simone Foxman, *Bloomberg* | 11.02.2026
Sperm banks are offering “exclusive” rights to sperm, effectively promising families that the company will not sell to other families sperm from the donor that they used to conceive. This promise comes at a high price, sometimes as much as $80,000, and because there is no central donor registry and no legal guarantee, these “exclusive” rights don’t go very far.

US FEDERAL POLICY

Newly elected doctors and scientists hope to restore trust in science. It won’t be easy

Nicholas Florko, *Stat* | 11.12.2026
Doctors and scientists recently elected to the Senate or House of Representatives face an uphill battle when it comes to both public health policy and trust in science. These lawmakers hope to restore confidence in vaccines, investigate corruption and RFK Jr.’s decision-making, and restore public health and research infrastructure.

To deter bioterrorism, U.S. imposes new rules on ordering synthetic DNA

Phie Jacobs, *Science* | 11.09.2026
New federal regulations will require government-funded researchers creating synthetic DNA to undergo identity verification and screening of orders for synthetic DNA sequences that could be used to make dangerous toxins or pathogens. While many see the new rules as a step in the right direction, they caution that regulation should address a broader range of dangerous activities.

Kennedy to Allow Broad Use of Unapproved Peptide Injections

Christina Jewett, *The New York Times* | 10.28.2026
HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced that the agency will bypass FDA pathways for drug approval to allow broad access to peptide injections. The experimental and risky “treatments” have become increasingly popular due to social media influencers’ endorsements.

VARIOUS

How Virtual Cells Could Transform Medicine

Carl Zimmer, *The New York Times* | 11.18.2026
Researchers are training AI models on biological data to attempt to create a “virtual cell” – a computer model that predicts how any kind of cell will respond to any kind of change. Currently, the virtual cell is more a dream than a reality – in part because researchers don’t have enough data on how real cells behave to train the models.

An Unspoken Rule Spreads Through Biotech: Share Nothing

Gina Kolata, *The New York Times* | 11.17.2026

US biotech companies are closely guarding their discoveries and early data findings out of concern that Chinese researchers will take their ideas and “leapfrog” ahead of them in the development of drugs and treatments, in part because the Chinese government has made biotech its “highest priority” and thus provides much more funding to researchers than the US does.

If you’ve read this far, you clearly care about the fight to reclaim human biotechnologies for the common good. Thank you!

Will you support CGS by making a donation today?

DONATE

DONATE

The Center For Genetics and Society | 2900 Lakeshore Avenue | Oakland, CA 94610 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!