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CGS COMMENTARY

[Public Interest Group Condemns Human Germline Modification Efforts, Supports Research Moratorium, Calls for US Prohibition](#)

[CGS press statement]

We're at a watershed moment in determining whether human genetic technologies will be used in the public interest and for the common good, or in ways that are dangerous and socially pernicious.

[A Tipping Point on Human Germline Modification?](#)

by Jessica Cussins

Amidst reports that human embryos have been modified using the gene editing technique CRISPR, several groups of scientists have issued statements proposing moratoria on human germline genome editing.



["High IQ Eggs Wanted" – ads appeal to ego and altruism, offer \\$10,000](#)

by Lisa C. Ikemoto, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

The ABCs of egg donation are SAT, IQ, and college ranking, not to mention youth, race, and good looks, but marketing motivates young women with a carefully calibrated ratio of altruism and financial need.



[Universal Newborn Genome Sequencing and Generation Alpha](#)

by Ricki Lewis, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

What might the future look like, as whole-genome sequencing of newborns ramps up?



[California and your DNA: Is it a healthy relationship?](#)

by Jessica Cussins

While every state across the country takes part in newborn screening, each state differs in how it handles the blood cards and the genetic information they hold. In California, those cards are stored indefinitely and potentially rented out for a broad array of uses.



NEWS

▶ [States aren't Eager to Regulate Fertility Industry](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Michael Ollove, *USA Today*

The Utah Legislature has ventured into the "Wild West of the fertility industry" by passing a law giving children conceived via sperm donation access to the medical histories of their biological fathers.

▶ [A Baby From Three](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Govind Vijaykumar, *The Asian Age*

Within a year, the world could see the first of what's being described as the three-parent baby. And it's one of mankind's riskiest endeavours.

[These Are All the Things That Could Go Wrong with 23andMe's](#)

▶ [Drug Development](#)

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Kari Paul, *Motherboard*

23andMe announced plans to use its massive DNA database to develop new medical treatments, but experts question what that means for the people who have submitted their data to the company.

▶ [Don't Edit The Human Germ Line](#)

by Edward Lanphier, Fyodor Urnov, Sarah Ehlen Haecker, Michael Werner & Joanna Smolenski, *Nature News*

Heritable human genetic modifications pose serious risks, and the therapeutic benefits are tenuous.

▶ [Engineering the Perfect Baby](#)

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*

Scientists are developing ways to edit the DNA of tomorrow's children. Should they stop before it's too late?

▶ [Industry Body Calls for Gene-Editing Moratorium](#)

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*

Gene-editing companies say research on altering the DNA of human reproductive cells is dangerous and unethical.

▶ [Scientists Sound Alarm Over DNA Editing of Human Embryos](#)

by David Cyranoski, *Nature News*

Researchers call on scientists to agree not to modify human embryos — even for research.

▶ [American Scientists are Trying to Genetically Modify Human Eggs](#)

by Steve Connor, *The Independent*

Editing the chromosomes of human eggs or sperm to create genetically modified IVF embryos is illegal in Britain and many other countries.

▶ [Britain Moving Too Fast on 3-Parent Children](#)

by Editorial, *Los Angeles Times*

Scientists do not know the long-term results of allowing children to be conceived with DNA from three parents.

▶ [23andMe Adds On: More About The Gene-Test Maker's Drug R&D Ambitions](#)

by Alex Lash, *Xconomy*

"We definitely think genetics should be married with all the other info being tracked. That will come in time."

▶ [23andMe to Use Genetic Database for Drug Discovery](#)

by Ron Winslow, *Wall Street Journal*

23andMe's new therapeutics group, led by a star drug developer, will have "the opportunity to look broadly through the database and not have a particular restriction to what we're looking for."

▶ [Get Genetic Testing and Cheat the System?](#)

by Robert Klitzman, *CNN*

Many people undergo genetic testing on their own and pay out of pocket, allowing them to keep the result to themselves.

▶ [Genetic Testing Ads Not Telling the Whole Story, Study Says](#)

by Sabriya Rice, *Modern Healthcare*

"There are very important limitations...but they are not widely reported on websites that market personalized cancer care."

▶ [Pregnant Women Are Finding Out They Have Cancer From A Genetic Test Of Their Babies](#)

by Virginia Hughes, *BuzzFeed*

When it comes to prenatal tests, it's not clear whether incidental findings have clear-cut diagnostic value. And false positives might spur a

pregnant woman to go through unnecessary medical procedures.

▶ [Privacy and the 100,000 Genome Project](#)

by Edward Hockings and Lewis Coyne, *The Guardian*

As the Department of Health starts to draw a map of thousands of genomes, will it keep its promise to anonymize our data?

▶ [How Fear Fuels the Business of Egg Freezing](#)

by Danielle Paquette, *Washington Post*

The procedure's popularity and low odds of success have heightened tension between marketers and some doctors: What is responsible advertising — and what is fear mongering?

▶ ['Ladies, Don't Freeze Your Eggs:' Dalhousie Professor Urges Work-Life Balance Instead](#)

CBC News

It allows companies to keep their young, exciting women in the workplace producing for them instead of reproducing for themselves.

▶ [Polish Government Backs Bill to Regulate IVF Treatment](#)

by Marcin Goettig, *Reuters [Poland]*

The bill would also ban sales and destruction of human embryos, cloning of human embryos and manipulation of human DNA.

▶ [How DNA Is Turning Us Into a Nation of Suspects](#)

by John Whitehead, *The Blaze*

Every dystopian sci-fi film we've ever seen is suddenly converging into this present moment in a dangerous trifecta between science, technology and a government that wants to be all-seeing, all-knowing and all-powerful.

▶ [D.C.'s New Crime Lab Goes Under the Microscope](#)

Washington Post Editorial

What's the point of spending millions of dollars on a crime lab if people don't trust its findings and won't use it?

▶ [The Price Of Hype: The Public Now Has Unrealistic Timelines For Science](#)

by Hank Campbell, *Science 2.0*

Today, people think stem cell therapies already exist. It's not science journalists and bloggers framing this for political gain. The culprits are scientists playing up their research.

▶ [How Identity Evolves in the Age of Genetic Imperialism](#)

by Eleonore Pauwels and Jim Dratwa, *Scientific American*

The Silicon Valley brand of genetic determinism tells us there is a gene-

hack to solve every “problem” — that DNA is just a code to personalize at will.

▶ [The Many Ethical Implications of Emerging Technologies](#)

by Nayef Al-Rodhan, *Scientific American*

Brainlike computer chips, smart pharmacology and other advances offer great promise but also raise serious questions that we must deal with now.

▶ [Oh the Humanities!](#)

by Kevin Boehnke, *Science*

As stable academic science positions stagnate, a growing proportion of scientists seek employment outside academia.

▶ [Humans May Harbor More Than 100 Genes From Other Organisms](#)

by Sarah C. P. Williams, *Science News*

The strands of DNA inside human cells haven't all been passed down from parent to child; some have jumped from other organisms.

