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CENTER FOR GENETICS AND SOCIETY

May 7 , 2015

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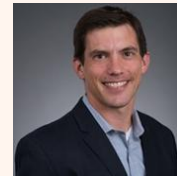
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Online NOW: Talking Biopolitics with Aaron Panofsky and Osagie Obasogie](#)

A conversation with Aaron Panofsky about his new book [Misbehaving Science: Controversy and the Development of Behavior Genetics](#). Aaron was interviewed by CGS's Osagie Obasogie.



CGS COMMENTARY

[Genetically Modified Humans? Seven Reasons to Say "No"](#)

by Center for Genetics and Society

Crossing the threshold into inheritable human genetic alterations has long been considered dangerously unacceptable for both safety and social reasons.

[Stopping or Selling Human Germline Modification?](#)

by Pete Shanks

Debate about human germline engineering has taken off since publication of a paper describing failed attempts to genetically modify a human embryo.



[NIH Statement on Gene Editing Highlights Need for Stronger US Stance on Genetically Modified Humans, Says Public Interest Group](#)

[Press statement]

CGS welcomes NIH Director Francis Collins' unambiguous statement that "altering the human germline in embryos for clinical purposes ...has been viewed almost universally as a line that should not be crossed."



DIY Bio-Engineering: Disrupting Democracy

by Colleen Cordes, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

The Do-It-Yourself synthetic biology movement (or, DIY synbio) is not advocating "citizen science," let alone "democratizing science." It's not about science or democracy.

Why Facebook's Egg Donor Ads Freak Me Out (And Should Freak You Out Too)

by Sayantani DasGupta, *Biopolitical Times* guest contributor

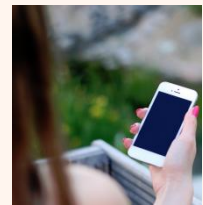
With the disturbing aspects of the ova donation industry in mind, the additional digital twist of the personalized Facebook ova ad is particularly disturbing.



The Blurred Lines of Genetic Data: Practicality, Pleasure and Policing

by Jessica Cussins

Amidst a rumor that Apple may encourage iPhone owners to participate in DNA testing and share their genetic data, shocking news from Ancestry.com and the Idaho police is a reminder that we don't always control what happens with our data, and won't always like it.



NEWS

US 'Will Not Fund Research For Modifying Embryo DNA'

▶ [Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by James Gallagher, *BBC*

Modifying the DNA of embryos is a "line that should not be crossed", a leading figure in US research says.

Ethics of Embryo Editing Paper Divides Scientists

▶ [Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Sara Reardon, *Nature News*

In March, rumours of the work prompted calls for a moratorium on such research. "No researcher has the moral warrant to flout the globally widespread policy agreement against altering the human germline."

Re-Engineering Human Embryos

▶ [With CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]

by Tom Ashbrook, *On Point*

Chinese scientists re-engineer human embryo genes, and set off a global moral debate.

▶ **[Editing Human Germline Cells Sparks Ethics Debate](#)**

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]
by Tina Hesman Saey, *ScienceNews*
Powerful new gene editing tools could expand the scope of DNA alteration, forever changing humans' genetic destiny. Not everyone thinks scientists should wield that power.

▶ **[Could Genetically Engineered Humans Become a Reality?](#)**

[Quotes CGS's Marcy Darnovsky]
by Robert King, *Washington Examiner*
If you start to modify embryos for health reasons, then it could start humanity down a path towards non-therapeutic enhancements.

▶ **[Splice of Life](#)**

by Editorial, *Nature*
Now is a good time for a public debate about human germline editing. Voices from civil society outside the closeted worlds of science, bioethics and regulation be heard, and their viewpoints must help to set the terms of the debate.

▶ **[CRISPR Germline Editing Reverberates Through Biotech Community](#)**

by Bioentrepreneur, *Nature News Blog*
The group has called for a discussion of the potential merits and risks of the technology and a global moratorium on germline applications, until such time, if ever, responsible uses can be identified.

▶ **[Statement on NIH Funding of Research Using Gene-Editing Technologies in Human Embryos](#)**

by Francis Collins, *National Institute of Health*
There are unquantifiable safety issues, ethical issues presented by altering the germline in a way that affects the next generation without their consent, and a current lack of compelling medical applications justifying the use of CRISPR/Cas9 in embryos.

▶ **[Journal Responds to Controversy Over Embryo Gene-Editing Paper](#)**

by Jocelyn Kaiser, *Science Magazine*
The paper has touched off a furor from scientists and others who have called for a moratorium on any efforts to establish a pregnancy with such a genetically modified embryo.

▶ **[Position Statement from the Society for Developmental Biology on Genomic Editing in Human Embryos](#)**

Society for Developmental Biology
Such studies raise deep ethical concerns on their own, and in addition could lead to unanticipated consequences if manipulated embryos were implanted into a womb and allowed to develop to term./td>

▶ [These are the Countries Where it's 'Legal' to Edit Human Embryos \(Hint: the US is One\)](#)

by Lauren F Friedman, *Business Insider* [Australia]

In many places there are no laws preventing a scary "Gattaca scenario," where designer babies become routine — just some loose guidelines and a variable sense of ethics.

▶ [Gene Therapy's 'Temporary Benefits' for Retina Disease](#)

BBC

Two trials of gene therapy on an inherited form of blindness in children have shown some patients' eyesight can be improved - but only temporarily.

▶ [US Stem Cell Clinics, Patient Safety, and the FDA](#)

by Leigh Turner, *Trends in Molecular Medicine*

Fatal outcomes, complications, and lawsuits have not slowed the rapid spread of businesses promoting unapproved stem cell interventions.

▶ [A Look Inside a Stem Cell Clinic Infomercial Event](#)

by David Brafman, *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog*

Over the past several years there has been a proliferation of so-called stem cell 'clinics', which promise patients miraculous therapies often for currently incurable diseases and disorders.

▶ [Scientists Stumble Across Unknown Stem-Cell Type](#)

by Sara Reardon, *Nature*

"Region-selective" pluripotent cells raise the possibility of growing human organs in animals.

▶ [Meet the World's First Baby Born With an Assist from Stem Cells](#)

by Alice Park, *Time*

Because the procedure is so new, some reproductive science experts are skeptical.

▶ [Apple Has Plans for Your DNA](#)

by Antonio Regalado, *MIT Technology Review*

Will the iPhone become a new tool in genetic studies?

▶ [How Future Hackers Will Target Your DNA](#)

by John Sotos, *Wall Street Journal*

In the future, DNA hackers won't sneak viruses into your laptop and crash websites. Instead, they'll sneak viruses into your body and crash you, and maybe billions of other people, too.

▶ [Can we Still Rely on DNA Sampling to Crack Crime?](#)

by Danny Shaw, *BBC News*

The new arrangements are so convoluted that even the man responsible for overseeing them has cast doubt as to whether they can work effectively and fairly.

▶ [How Private DNA Data Led Idaho Cops on a Wild Goose Chase and Linked an Innocent Man to a 20-year-old Murder Case](#)

by Jennifer Lynch, *Electronic Frontier Foundation*

This case highlights the extreme threats posed to privacy and civil liberties by familial DNA searches and by private, unregulated DNA databases.

▶ [National Accreditation Board Suspends All DNA Testing at D.C. Crime Lab](#)

by Keith L. Alexander, *Washington Post*

The audit ordered “at a minimum” the revalidation of test procedures, new interpretation guidelines for DNA mixture cases, additional training and competency testing of staff.

▶ [Hi-Tech DNA Machines Cause Concern](#)

by Oscar Quine, *The Independent*

Police forces across the UK are testing technology that allows officers to analyse DNA samples in custody suites, amid fears that civil liberties could be infringed and evidence compromised.

▶ [Five Disturbing Things You Didn't Know About Forensic "Science"](#)

by Jordan Smith, *The Intercept*

Last week, it was revealed that the FBI “overstated forensic matches in a way that favored prosecutors in more than 95 percent” of the cases. And this is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to flawed forensics.

▶ [Why Whole-Genome Testing Hurts More Than it Helps](#)

by H. Gilbert Welch and Wylie Burke, *Los Angeles Times*

For the medical-industrial complex, whole-genome tests may pay off, but for most people they would be absurd.

▶ [Israel Evacuates Surrogate Babies From Nepal but Leaves the Mothers Behind](#)

by Debra Kamin, *Time*

The infants' arrival completed the evacuation of 26 surrogate Israeli babies from Nepal, where a devastating earthquake killed more than 4,000.

▶ [China Tackles Illegal, Prenatal Sex Selection](#)

UCA News

Authorities will target clinics and agencies “suspected, but never caught” carrying out tests that allow parents to determine the sex of their child.

▶ [Stigma Around ‘Non-Traditional’ Families Won’t End With Assisted Reproductive Technology](#)

by Bianca Campbell, *RH Reality Check*

"I wonder if this assisted reproductive technology will be truly accessible to me and my community, and if it reinforces a nuclear family ideal that further stigmatizes our choices."

▶ [Myriad Genetics Fights Off Threats From Rivals](#)

by Joseph Walker, *Wall Street Journal*

Nearly two years after the Supreme Court struck down gene patents, the DNA testing firm fights to sustain a business model.

▶ [Overcoming Bias: Why Not?](#)

by Ari N. Schulman, *The New Atlantis*

Some of the most prominent of the "new rationalists" are also spokesmen of transhumanism.

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