

# Ethics, law and social science briefing

December 2010

This briefing intends to highlight a selection of key developments and publications in the field of fertility and embryo research at the time of writing. It is not designed to be an exhaustive list of all research and developments within the field.

## Section 1

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### 1. Ethics, law and social science research

#### Donation studies and journal articles

- 1.1. ***Redefining Families: Bioethics, assisted reproduction and emerging family forms*, Professor S. Golombok funded by Enhancement Award in Biomedical Ethics.**
- 1.2. A five-year programme focusing on parental rights, autonomy, consent and welfare of the child in newly emerging family forms.
- 1.3. The team is currently conducting new studies of gay father families, single mothers by choice and egg sharing families, and have just completed the age 9 phase of their longitudinal study of children conceived by donor insemination, egg donation and surrogacy.
- 1.4. ***Study on the ethical allocation of eggs donated for the purpose of fertility treatment*. University of Birmingham, the Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust; supervised by Dr H. Draper and Dr S. Avery.**
- 1.5. The aims of the study are to determine the allocation criteria used by UK clinics for donated eggs (either explicit or 'hidden') and determine what allocation criteria ought to be used. It also investigates whether a national register of donors and recipients should be introduced. It is thought that a short report will be fed back to the HFEA's Ethics and Law Advisory Committee.
- 1.6. ***An investigation of women's experiences of an IVF egg sharing scheme for somatic cell nuclear transfer research*, lead by E. Haines, sponsored by Medical Research Council**
- 1.7. A study on the socio-ethical evaluation of women's experiences of an 'egg sharing for research' scheme that is now operating in a fertility clinic in Newcastle upon Tyne. It is intended that results from this study will be reported towards the end of the research, in April 2011. See here for further information: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/peals/research/project/2744>
- 1.8. ***Experiences of offspring searching for and contacting their donor siblings and donor*, V. Jadva, T. Freeman, W. Kramer, S. Golombok Reproductive Biomedicine Online 2010**

- 1.9. This paper investigate parents' reasons for searching for their child's donor siblings and/or donor, the outcome of these searches and parents' and their child's experiences of any resulting contact. It highlights that having access to information about a child's donor origins is important for some parents and has potentially positive consequences.
- 1.10. ***Donor-Conceived People's Access to Genetic and Biographical History: An Analysis of Provisions in Different Jurisdictions Permitting Disclosure of Donor Identity*, E. Blyth and L. Frith International Journal of Law, Policy and the Family, Vol.23, Issue2**
- 1.11. This article examines provisions in the jurisdictions which allow donor-conceived individuals to learn the identity of their donor. It identifies their similarities and differences, and outlines further measures that can be taken to promote the ability of donor-conceived people to learn about their genetic and biographical history. See here for further information: <http://lawfam.oxfordjournals.org/content/23/2/174.short>
- 1.12. ***The making and breaking of paternity secrets in donor insemination*, L. Turney, Journal of Medical Ethics, July 2010 Vol36, Issue 7**
- 1.13. This paper outlines medicine's role in the formation of normative families through the use of donor insemination. It recommends introducing regulation covering the use of paternity testing to link donor conceived adult children to their donor.

#### Public health research

- 1.14. ***Centre for the Study of Incentives in Health [CSI Health], funded by a Strategic Award in Biomedical Ethics from Wellcome Trust***
- 1.15. CSI Health is a collaboration between King's College London, Queen Mary University of London and The London School of Economics. The integrated programme of research aims to use the perspectives of three disciplines – philosophy, psychology and economics - to evaluate whether financial incentives are an acceptable means by which to improve population health. See here for further information: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/biohealth/research/csinentiveshealth/>

#### Genetics

- 1.16. ***The human body: Its scope, limits and future*, Prof. J. Harris and Prof. S. Cunningham-Burley (University of Edinburgh), Funded by a Strategic Award in Biomedical Ethics**
- 1.17. A multidisciplinary programme which combines philosophical, legal and sociological research in five interlinked areas, including: human biomaterials, genethics, reproduction, enhancement and methods in bioethics. Of most relevance the 'reproduction' strand of research which will examine the ethical implications of new and emerging assisted reproductive technologies.
- 1.18. ***Making humans better and making better humans* Mairi Levitt & F. K. O'Neill, Genomics, Society and Policy Journal 2010 Vol. 6, No. 1**
- 1.19. This paper explores the debate on whether a distinction can and should

be drawn between the treatment and enhancement of human beings. The project surveys the attitudes of young people towards enhancement and the types of arguments/reasoning they employ when thinking about the possibilities and the techniques. Key finding suggests that most students were happy to imagine 'upgrades' but more likely to question the practice of enhancement in real life. See here for further information:

<http://www.gspjournal.com/>

1.20. ***Nature After the Genome*, S. Parry (Innogen) and J. Dupré (Egenis), eds. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010)**

1.21. This book is a collection of essays on issues such as synthetic biology, agricultural biotechnology, stem cell research and biodiversity. The authors hope to show how far-reaching and radical the implications of (genomic) science are, and how the ways we think about life, and the capacities we have for intervening in life processes, are being transformed.

### **Embryo and embryonic stem cell research**

1.22. ***Ethical frameworks for embryo donation: views, values & practices of IVF/PGD staff*, C. Williams funded by Wellcome Trust Biomedical Ethics Programme Project**

1.23. Research exploring links between assisted conception, preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) and human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research, particularly the donation of embryos to research. It is primarily a case study of staff at three English teaching hospitals, with data from 44 interviews with staff, six ethics discussion groups and observations in clinics, laboratories and staff meetings.

1.24. ***A comparative study of embryo donors' and non-donors' views on embryo experimentation for pre-implantation genetic diagnosis and stem cell therapies*. Led by E. Haimes and A. Murdoch, Newcastle NHS Fertility Centre, sponsored by the Wellcome Trust.**

1.25. A study which aims to explore people's experiences of being asked to donate embryos and the processes by which they came to their decision to donate or not. It will also examine the similarities and differences between people's views on preimplantation genetic diagnosis and stem cell research, as well as embryo experimentation more generally. See here for further information:

<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/peals/research/project/847>

1.26. ***Stem cells clinical trials for cardiac repair: regulation as practical accomplishment*, D. Wilson-Kovacs, S. Weber and C. Hauskeller (Egenis). *Sociology of Health and Illness* 32.1 (2010): 89-105.**

1.27. This paper explores the effect of different regulatory environments in the UK and Germany upon clinical work and clinical trials. The authors suggest that rather than comparing the differences in an abstract way we need to see how clinical teams interpret the regulation in each national and institutional context. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/122675155/PDFSTART>

- 1.28. *Regulation of stem cell and regenerative science: stakeholder opinions, plurality and actor space in the Argentine social science setting*, S. Harmon (Innogen). *Law, Innovation and Technology* 2.1 (2010): 95-114
- 1.29. This paper articulates in broad terms a model bioscience environment, which includes bioscience policy and regulation, technology deployment and stakeholder engagement, and science innovation systems. It offers an explanation of how the Argentine environment departs from that ideal model. See here for further information:  
<http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/ahrc/esrcvaluesproject/files/Article%20-%20LIT%20-%20Plurality%20&%20Regulation%20in%20Argentina.pdf>
- 1.30. *Patients' conceptualization of cryopreserved embryos used in their fertility treatment*, V. Provoost<sup>1</sup>, G. Pennings, P. De Sutter, J. Gerris, A. Van de Velde and M. Dhont, *Human Reproduction* Volume 25, Issue3
- 1.31. A study looking into patient opinions on treatment using cryopreserved embryos. Results suggest that patients have misconceptions about the effectiveness of treatment with cryopreserved embryos, and doubts and fears which may influence their decision-making but which is seldom discussed with the medical staff. See here for further information:  
<http://humrep.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/3/705.abstract>
- 1.32. *Not "human" enough to be human but not "animal" enough to be animal: the case of the HFEA, cybrids and xenotransplantation in the UK*, G. Haddow, A. Bruce, J. Calvert, S. Harmon and W. Marsden (Innogen). *New Genetics and Society* 29.1 (2010)
- 1.33. This article examines the HFEA's involvement in regulating and advising research using admixed embryos, and argues it was partly due to pressure from pro-cybrid supporters and the decommissioning of the UKXIRA. See here for further information:  
<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a919662485~db=all~jumptype=rss>

## Section 2

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### 2. UK developments

- 2.1. **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008**
- 2.2. The final sections of the 2008 Act were brought into force on 6 April 2010. This included the Parental Order provisions and the Disclosure of Information for Research Purposes) Regulations 2010.
- 2.3. **Equality Act 2010**
- 2.4. On 1 October 2010 the main provisions of the Equality Act 2010 come into force. The main purpose of the Equality Act 2010 is to harmonise and strengthen the previous law on discrimination to promote equality and

provide a simpler, more consistent framework for the effective prevention of discrimination.

- 2.5. Review of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) fertility guideline**
- 2.6.** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has commissioned the National Collaborating Centre for Women's and Children's Health to update the clinical guideline on Fertility, which was published by NICE in February 2004. NICE has consulted on a draft scope of the guideline with stakeholders.
- 2.7.** The Guideline Development Group are now in the process of identifying and reviewing evidence and expert consensus opinion and will be translating this evidence into recommendations for practice and audit criteria. At the time of writing, NICE had not yet announced an expected publication date for the revised guidelines.
- 2.8. Department of Health's Review of the Arm's Length Bodies**
- 2.9.** On 26 July 2010, following the Government's review of Arms Length Bodies, the Department of Health announced the Government's intention to retain the statutory functions of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and the Human Tissues Act and transfer them to other larger health bodies, in particular the Care Quality Commission. It is thought the transfer will take place during the course of this Parliament.
- 2.10.** This review sits within the wider reforms set out in the White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' announced on 12 July 2010. The government are currently consulting on the proposals set out in the White Paper which will close on 14 January 2011. See here for further information:  
[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH\\_119651](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_119651)
- 2.11. Academy of Medical Sciences**
- 2.12.** The Academy of Medical Sciences has been commissioned by the Government to undertake an independent review of the regulation and governance of UK medical research. The review will concentrate on research involving human participants, their tissues or data but will not deal in detail with the regulation and governance surrounding the use of animals in research. In addition to the focus on all stages of clinical trials, the review will also consider experimental medicine and epidemiological studies.
- 2.13. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA): Donating sperm, eggs and embryos – have your say**
- 2.14.** The HFEA is currently reviewing a number of its policies relating to sperm, egg and embryo donation. The aim of the review is to ensure HFEA policies do not pose unnecessary barriers to the supply of donor gametes, whilst facilitating safe and effective donation and protecting the interests of all affected (donor conceived people, donors, parents and recipients).
- 2.15.** A public consultation will run between 14 January and 14 April 2011. An

online consultation document will ask for views on:

- the number of families a donor can create
- expenses, compensation and benefits in kind donors can receive for donation
- donation between family members

2.16. See here for further information: <http://www.hfea.gov.uk/5605.html>

2.17. **The Nuffield Council on Bioethics**

2.18. The Nuffield Council on Bioethics launched a public consultation on human bodies in medicine and research on 20 April 2010. The consultation 'Give and take? Human bodies in medicine and research' will explore ways to encourage organ and tissue donation. At the time of writing, consultation responses are currently being considered by the Consultations Working Party who will publish a report with policy recommendations in autumn 2011.

2.19. **Men convicted over illegal sperm website**

2.20. Two men have been convicted under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 (as amended), of procuring and distributing sperm without a licence, as required by law. The two men had operated a website called Fertility 1<sup>st</sup> through which fertility patients could select from a database of sperm donors and order 'fresh' sperm to be directly delivered, for a fee, to their door. Both men were given a suspended sentence along with a £15,000 fine and community service.

2.21. **T v B [2010] EWHC 1444 (Court ruling on financial support by non-birth lesbian mother)**

2.22. The High Court has decided that a lesbian (non birth) mother does not have to financially support the ten year old child she conceived together with her partner. The court ruled that even though the mother was awarded 'parental responsibility' for her child and the right to full involvement in her child's care, she cannot be held financially responsible because, at law, she is not a 'parent'. Judgment: <http://www.familylawweek.co.uk/site.aspx?i=ed61653>

## Section 3

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### 3. International Developments

3.1. **International Fertility Societies Call for the Harmonisation of Cross-Border Reproductive Care Standards**

3.2. The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), in co-operation with national and statutory organisations, is currently developing a 'Code of Practice on Cross Border Reproductive Care'. It will lay out a set of guidelines that protects and reassures patients, donors, surrogates and future children. See here:

<http://www.eshre.eu/ESHRE/English/Press-Room/Press-Releases/2010-Press-releases/September/IFFS/page.aspx/1147>

- 3.3. **Cross border reproductive care in six European countries F. Shenfield et al. the ESHRE Taskforce on Cross Border Reproductive Care, Human Reproduction, Vol.00, No.0 pp. 1–8, 2010**
- 3.4. This study aimed to provide an overview of cross border reproductive care in six European countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland). Conclusions include that many patients travel to evade restrictive legislation in their own country, and that support from their home health providers is variable. There also may be a need for professional societies to establish standards for cross border reproductive care.
- 3.5. **New European preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) and preimplantation genetic screening (PGS) guidelines published**
- 3.6. The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) has published an updated set of best practice guidelines for fertility clinics on the use of preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) and preimplantation genetic screening (PGS) techniques.
- 3.7. **German Ethics Council launches enquiry into assisted reproduction**
- 3.8. The German Ethics Council has announced an enquiry into assisted reproduction and the implications of the Embryo Protection Act (ESchG) of 1990. The ESchG bans the donation of human egg cells, IVF using sperm of a deceased, surrogate motherhood and the creation of embryos for a purpose other than implantation in the womb. The Council will make recommendations on reviewing and updating Germany's regulatory framework for assisted reproduction.
- 3.9. **German Court ruling on pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD)**
- 3.10. Germany's ESchG does not offer legal clarity about the use of PGD. Despite this ambiguity a doctor used PGD in two separate IVF treatments of couples with a history of severe hereditary disorders. The doctor had reported himself as violating the law to force the courts to create legal clarity.
- 3.11. On 7 July 2010, the Germany Federal Court of Justice acquitted the doctor. However, the court underlined that the verdict was not about approving embryo selection in general
- 3.12. **Key changes announced by French government to forthcoming update to the Bioethics Law**
- 3.13. France has announced the main themes which will be the subject of potential revisions to its bioethics laws. They will be presented to the council of ministers at the end of September 2010 and debated by MPs in November 2010. The themes include: authorisation of ultra-rapid egg freezing; access to non-identifying information for donor conceived people; and the prohibition of research on embryos and stem cells (unless authorised in exceptional arrangements). Issues around surrogacy and

IVF for single people and same sex couples will not be addressed.

- 3.14. Polish government debates the regulation of fertility treatment**
- 3.15.** Fertility treatment in Poland is currently unregulated. Polish MPs have begun debating proposals to introduce fertility treatment regulation, discussing six draft bill covering a wide range of regulatory approaches. See here for further information:  
[http://www.bionews.org.uk/page.asp?obj\\_id=73410](http://www.bionews.org.uk/page.asp?obj_id=73410)
- 3.16. Canadian court allows woman to seek information on sperm-donor father**
- 3.17.** A Canadian court has allowed a woman conceived through donor insemination to bring legal action against the province of British Columbia to obtain information about her biological heritage, which may include the identity of her sperm donor.
- 3.18.** The Assisted Human Reproduction Act 2004 allows donors to remain anonymous; however it is unclear what impact a ruling in favour of the donor conceived women would have on this position. See here for further information : [http://www.bionews.org.uk/page\\_73638.asp](http://www.bionews.org.uk/page_73638.asp)
- 3.19. Australia to review ban on sex selection**
- 3.20.** The Australian health watchdog, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), will be conducting a review of its policy on sex selection, beginning within the next few months, after the completion of its ongoing review of the Research Involving Human Embryos Act and the Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act.
- 3.21.** At present the use of gender selection technology - specifically, selection by using PGD (preimplantation genetic diagnosis) - is only allowed where parents carry a serious genetic disorder that can be passed on and detected through gender. The social use of gender selection was banned in 2004 by federal legislation, and earlier in 1998 by state legislation in Victoria.

## Section 4

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### 4. Publications

- 4.1. *Different families: the experiences of children with lesbian and gay parents*, Stonewall (2010) (London: Stonewall).**
- 4.2.** The Stonewall report, which was published earlier this year, focuses on the experiences of children with gay or lesbian parents. Stonewall commissioned the Centre for Family Research to carry out the study. The findings of the study were split into three categories: how the child feels about their family; how other people feel about their family; and their experiences at school. Recommendations are aimed at schools. For further information see here:  
<http://www.ppsis.cam.ac.uk/CFR/news/documents/StonewallReport.pdf>

- 4.3. ***The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (2008) and the Tenacity of the Sexual Family Form***, J. McCandless, S. Sheldon
- 4.4. The paper explores the parenthood provisions set out in Part 2 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 by looking at both the innovation of the new provisions and what they owe to deep-rooted traditional assumptions about the family. See here for further information: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-2230.2010.00790.x/full>
- 4.5. ***Developments in stem cell research and therapeutic cloning: Islamic ethical positions, a review***. H. E. Fadel, *Bioethics*, Wiley Online.
- 4.6. In this paper the Islamic positions regarding human embryonic stem cell research and therapeutic cloning are explored. Based on the expectation of potential benefits, Islamic teachings permit and support human embryonic stem cell research.
- 4.7. ***Embryonic Stem Cell Patents: European Law and Ethics***, *Medical Law Review*, Volume 18, Issue 3
- 4.8. The paper looks at wider ethical and sociological considerations of whether or not to permit scientists to patent human embryonic stem cells (hESCs). See here for further information: <http://medlaw.oxfordjournals.org/content/18/3/434.extract>
- 4.9. ***Enhancing Human Capacities*** R. Meulen, J. Savulescu, G. Kahane (eds.) (forthcoming 2011), Oxford: Wiley Blackwell
- 4.10. This paper reviews the latest scientific developments in human enhancement whilst examining the ethical and policy implications of these technologies from a broad range of perspectives.
- 4.11. ***News and Views Managing Novel Reproductive Injuries in the Law of Tort: The Curious Case of Destroyed Sperm***, N. Priaux, *European Journal of Health Law*, Volume 17, Number 1, 2010
- 4.12. A paper exploring how clinical mishaps in reproductive medicine is giving rise to 'injuries' not easily accommodated within the English law of negligence. Focusing upon the *Yearworth & Ors v Bristol NHS Trust* (2009) case involving the destruction of cryopreserved sperm, it argues for an urgent rethink of what counts as 'personal injury.'
- 4.13. ***Third-party reproductive assistance around the Mediterranean: comparing Sunni Egypt, Catholic Italy and multisectarian Lebanon*** M. C Inhorn, P. Patrizio, and G. I Serour. *Reproductive BioMedicine Online* (In press)
- 4.14. The article examines religious and legal restrictions on third-party reproductive assistance in Sunni Egypt, Catholic Italy and multi-sectarian Lebanon.

## Section 5

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### 5. Science

#### 5.1. Horizon scanning of the HFEA's Scientific and Clinical Advances Advisory Committee (SCAAC)

5.2. SCAAC, at its March 2010, identified the following high priority issues for the 2010/11 workplan:

- Vitrification
- Embryo biopsy
- Fertility preservation
- Preimplantation genetic diagnosis for mitochondrial disease
- In vitro derived gametes
- Alternatives to derive embryonic stem cells and embryonic-like stem cells
- Methods to avoid mitochondrial disease transmission
- Health outcomes of children conceived using ART

5.3. See here for a link to the papers: <http://www.hfea.gov.uk/5820.html>

#### 5.4. Pronuclei transfer for the avoidance of mitochondrial disease

5.5. SCAAC, at its May 2010 meeting, discussed the announcement by researchers at the Newcastle Fertility Centre at Life that they had successfully transferred DNA between two human eggs, using a new scientific technique known as 'pronuclei transfer.'

5.6. The aim of the technique is to replace the cell mitochondrial in a fertilised egg, and thereby prevent damaged DNA in that mitochondria transmitting serious inherited disorders, known as mitochondria disease. For use in clinical treatment new legislative provisions would be required. See here for a link to the papers: <http://www.hfea.gov.uk/5906.html>

#### 5.7. Update on in vitro derived gametes

5.8. SCAAC, at its September 2010 meeting, discussed an update provided by the Executive on research carried out in the last year into in vitro derived gametes. Members noted that whilst progress has been made in deriving gametes in vitro problems remain and further work is required to establish a directed and efficient method of inducing germ cells from embryonic, pluripotent and germ stem cells.

5.9. Members noted that further research is required before it can be demonstrated that the in vitro derived germ cells have full functionality, as seen with in vivo germ cells. This would include further work to discover the epigenetic status of the derived germ cells and ensure that it was correct. Further research is also required on in vitro derivation of gametes in mammals other than mice, as the understanding of the process in other mammals, including humans, is less advanced. See here for a link to the papers: <http://www.hfea.gov.uk/6080.html>

## Section 6

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### 6. Events (previous/ upcoming events)

#### Previous events (at the time of publication)

- 6.1. **Public debate on non-invasive prenatal genetic diagnosis**
- 6.2. On 16 March 2010, as part of the ESRC Festival of Social Science 2010, Egenis organized a public meeting at Exeter's Central Library on the implications of new developments in medical technology that could lead to earlier and easier prenatal tests for genetic conditions. See <http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/egenis/research/biomedicinehealthandidentity/projecttitle,8173,en.html>
- 6.3. **European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) Annual Meeting 2010**
- 6.4. The 26th Annual Meeting of ESHRE took place in Rome in June 2010. Presentations were given from world leading experts in reproductive medicine. The meeting included a pre course workshop on cross border reproductive care and the annual meeting the HFEA horizon scanning panel. Please see here for further information: <http://www.eshre.eu/ESHRE/English/Annual-meeting/Rome-2010/page.aspx/777>
- 6.5. **Transnational reproductive stakeholder workshop**
- 6.6. Held on Friday 18 June 2010 at De Montfort University, Leicester, the workshop was designed as a means of collecting views of cross border reproductive care. Delegates included people who had travelled abroad for fertility treatment; healthcare providers; counsellors; representatives from overseas clinics; patient support group representatives; academics and regulators. A final set of recommendations will be developed for policy and practice.
- 6.7. **Reproductive Medicine 2010: causes and treatment of infertility**
- 6.8. This conference held between 9 and 10 September 2010 brought together leading experts in the field to discuss the current issues and latest developments in fertility, clinical embryology and reproductive medicine. Non-clinical presentations included whether egg, or sperm donors should be paid, an overview of sperm donation in the UK and the practical and ethical consideration in multiple birth strategies.
- 6.9. **The Alternative Families Show**
- 6.10. On 23 October 2010 the first parenthood show for gay and single people was held featuring seminars about fertility treatment, adoption, surrogacy and other options for starting a family. Legal rights, schooling and other social issues were also covered. See here for further information: <http://www.alternativefamiliesshow.com/>
- 6.11. **Making Babies in the 21st Century - The Rise of Reproductive Technologies, Cambridge University Centre for Gender Studies in**

**association with the Guardian newspaper.**

- 6.12. The event held on 2 November 2010 featured, presentations from Professor Carl Djerassi, inventor of the modern day contraceptive pill and author; Professor Susan Golombok from the Centre for Family Research; Professor Marcia Inhorn, a medical anthropologist from Yale University; and, a medical anthropologist from Yale University. Discussion focused on what the 'future' fertility patient might look like, ART and its implications for new family forms, and the globalisation of fertility treatment and its implications for wider society.
- 6.13. **13<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Infertility (COGI)**
- 6.14. Held between 4 and 7 November 2010, this multidisciplinary Congress was devoted to a wide spectrum of controversial issues and clinical debates in Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Infertility.
- 6.15. Danielle Hamm, Policy Manager, spoke at the debate: Should Egg Donors Received Payment or Only a Modest Sum with Receipts for Necessary Expenses? It was suggested that altruism as an ethical principle should be upheld, but this did not necessarily preclude increasing compensation, including inconveniences. Professor Antonio Pellicer (who runs a large donation clinic in Spain) advocated the Spanish position, that donors should be compensated generously; but that an open market should not be created.
- 6.16. **The Fertility Show 2010, Olympia London**
- 6.17. The event held between 5 and 6 November 2010 was an opportunity for people to find out more about fertility treatment and their options from 100 exhibitors and 60 experts' talk. People could seek information on UK and overseas clinics (including the HFEA's choose a fertility clinic internet search function), fertility assessments and treatments, medical and complementary alternatives and treatment for single women and same sex parents.
- 6.18. **Passport to Parenthood: The Evidence and Ethics Behind Cross-Border Reproductive Care, Progress Educational Trust** The conference, held on 24 November at London's Institute of Child Health, explored the scale and causes of cross-border reproductive care. Researchers presented their findings, while experts from various disciplines offered contrasting perspectives on the ethical, practical and legal ramifications. See here for further information:  
<http://www.progress.org.uk/conference2010>

**Upcoming events (at the time of publication)**

- 6.19. **2010 Genomics Network Conference**
- 6.20. To be held in Paris, between 6 and 7 December, the conference will review how knowledge in the life sciences is governed, shared, regulated and managed, and explore new linkages between the life sciences and information and communication technologies. For further information see here:

<http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/esrcgenomicsnetwork/events/conferences/>

- 6.21. **The Genomics Forum** A workshop will be held on 20 January 2011 to bring together scholars across a range of disciplines researching the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008. This event will cover both the legislative and policymaking process, and the subsequent impact of the Act. For further information see here:  
<http://www.genomicsnetwork.ac.uk/forum/events/workshops/title.24118.en.html>
- 6.22. **Fertility 2011**
- 6.23. The 7th biennial conference of the UK Fertility Societies will be held between the 4th January and the 07 January 2011. This event will address key issues in fertility including the consequences of current interventions, scientific breakthroughs, controversies in reproduction and debates about ethics. See here for further information:  
<http://www.fertility2011.org/>
- 6.24. **PEALS SEMINAR: New Technologies and Human Rights, Therese Murphy, Nottingham University**
- 6.25. A seminar by the Policy, Ethics and Life Sciences Research Centre will be held on 2 February 2011 at the Institute of Human Genetics, Centre for Life, Newcastle on 'New Technologies and Human Rights.'

## Section 7

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### 7. News stories

- 1.1. **Donor payment**
- 1.2. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-11057943>
- 1.3. An article about the debate on whether donors should be paid more. On 14 January the HFEA will be carrying out a three-month consultation on a number of its donation policies, including donor expenses, compensation and benefits in kind.
- 1.4. **Fertility treatment abroad**
- 1.5. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2010/aug/22/spain-fertility-tourism>
- 1.6. An article about the rising number of fertility patients seeking treatment abroad due to donor shortages.
- 1.7. **Embryo storage**
- 1.8. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8053726/Baby-born-from-embryo-frozen-20-years-ago.html>
- 1.9. An article about a baby born from an embryo which had been stored for 20 years.
- 1.10. **Funding cuts for fertility treatment**

- 1.11. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/67630244-d7bd-11df-b478-00144feabdc0.html#axzz16ClrQrM9>
- 1.12. An article about the implications of funding cuts in the health sector for the availability of NHS funded fertility treatment.
- 1.13. **IVF for older patients**
- 1.14. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/7012514/IVF-among-older-women-arguments-for-and-against.html>
- 1.15. An article setting out the arguments for and against IVF treatment for older women.