

Human Embryos and Gene-editing Research and regulation in China

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Outline



- **Policy and National Regulation**
- **Publications and Funding**
- **Suggestions from CAS and Society**

Policy, National Regulation Related to Human Genetic Research

Ethics Guidelines of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research (MOH/MOST)



Regulations on Clinical Use of Medical Technologies (MOH)



Notification on Self-Evaluation and Self-Correction regarding Clinical Stem Cell Research and Applications (MOH/CFDA)



1998

2003

2007

2009

2010

2012

2015



Interim Measures for the Administration of Human Genetic Resources(MOH/MOST)

Regulation on Ethical Review of Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects (MOH)

Guidelines for Ethical Review of Drug Clinical Trials (CFDA)

Regulations on Stem Cell Clinical Research (Trial) (NHFPC/CFDA)

* The Ministry of Health (MOH), The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)
China Food and Drug Administration (CFDA), National Health and Family Planning Commission(NHFPC)

Policy, National Regulation Related to Human Genetic Research



- The first regulation for the administration of human genetic resources was published in **1998** by then-MOH and MOST.



- The Updated Regulations on the Administration of Human Genetic Resources (*draft*) was published based on the first policy in **2012** by MOST.

Policy, National Regulation Related to Human Genetic Research



➤ Ethics Guidelines of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research, 2003, MOH and MOST

-- To prescribe **the basic principles** that should be followed in carrying out **human embryonic stem cell research**, including scope of research activity, research content of embryonic stem cell that should be allowed and forbidden to carry out, "Informed consent" and so on.



➤ Regulations on Clinical Use of Medical Technologies, 2009, MOH

-- To establish **medical technology access and management system**, **stem cell transplant technology** was grouped into **category III** medical technology, which included technologies considered as risky, ethically controversial and in need of clinical verification.

Policy, National Regulation Related to Human Genetic Research

➤ Regulation on Ethical Review of Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects (Interim)

-- Enacted by then-MOH in 2007

-- April 30th, 2014, the NHFPC published a revised version on its website to elicit comments from the public.

-- It aims to:

- 1) Improving and strengthening ethics review and inspection system;
- 2) Improving ethics review principles, protocols and other measures.



Policy, National Regulation Related to Human Genetic Research

➤ SFDA/CFDA's Regulations on Pharmaceutical Industry (ethical review related, some highlight)

- Chinese Good Clinical Practice (2003)
- Guidelines for Ethical Review of Drug Clinical Trials (2010)



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- Guidance on Multi-sited International Drug Clinical Trials (Interim) (2015)

Policy, National Regulation Related to Human Genetic Research



➤ Regulations on Stem Cell Clinical Research (NOT Trial), 2015, NHFPC and CFDA

-- The **main responsibilities** of stem cell clinical trial research unit, ethics committee, expert committee and national and provincial health administration and food and drug regulatory authorities; clearly stipulated **the declaration and record** of stem cells, clinical research, rights and interests protection of donor and subject, report, supervision and punishment.

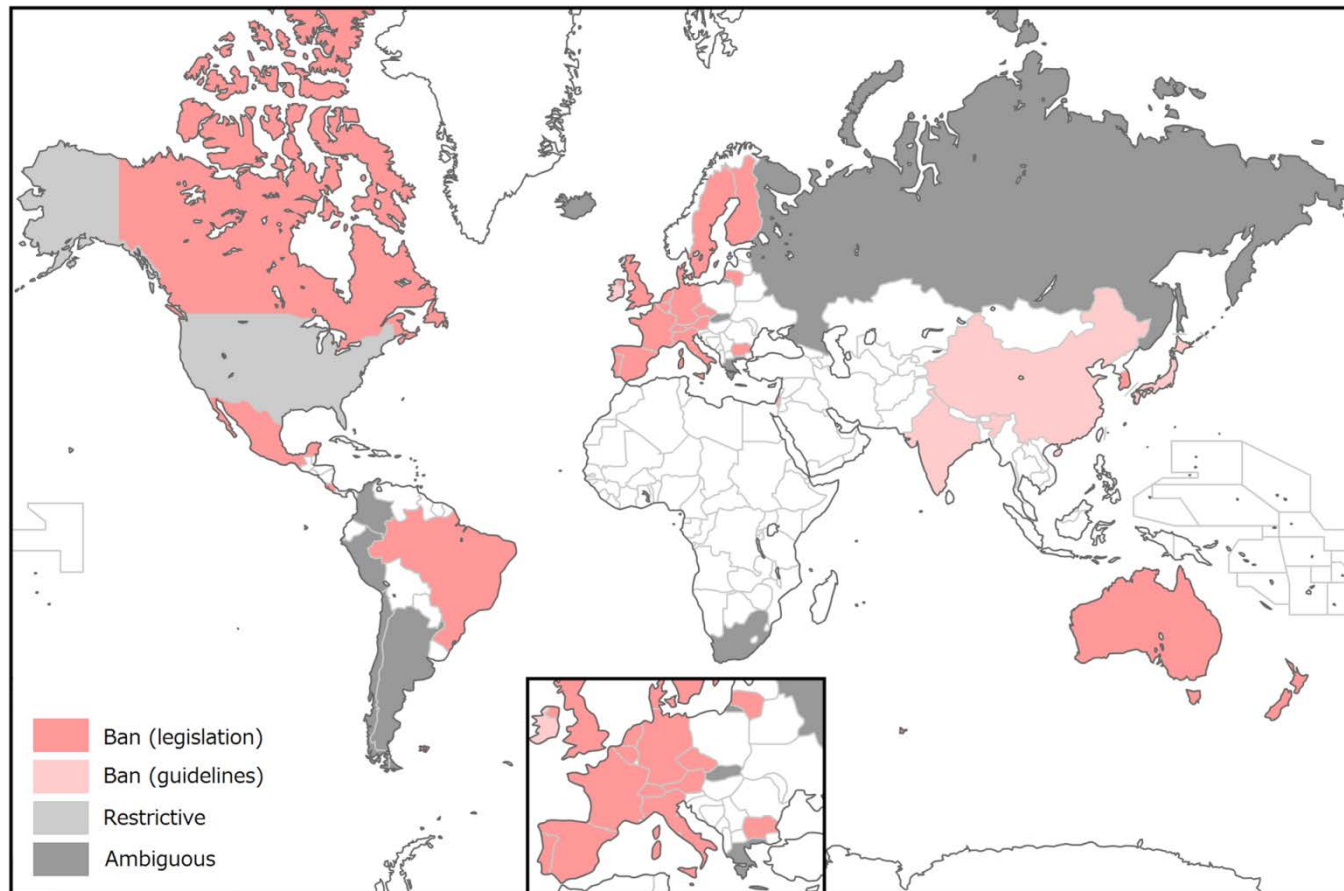


➤ Guidelines of Stem Cell Preparations Quality Control and Preclinical Research(Trial), 2015, NHFPC and CFDA

-- For **stem cell products quality control** (collection, separation, and establishment of stem cell lines; preparation, inspection, and quality research of stem cell products) and **preclinical research** (the research and evaluation of stem cell product safety and effectiveness in preclinical stage).

Policy, National Regulation Related to Human Genetic Research

➤ An international regulatory landscape regarding human germline gene modification



Source: Araki M, Ishii T. *Reproductive Biology and Endocrinology*, 2014, 12(1): 108.

Policy, National Regulation Related to Human Genetic Research

China

Using human egg plasma and nuclear transfer technology for the purpose of reproduction, and manipulation of the genes in human gametes, zygotes or embryos for the purpose of reproduction are prohibited.

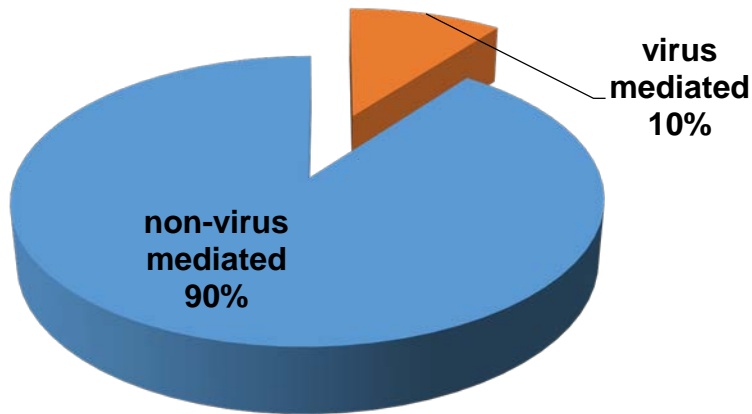
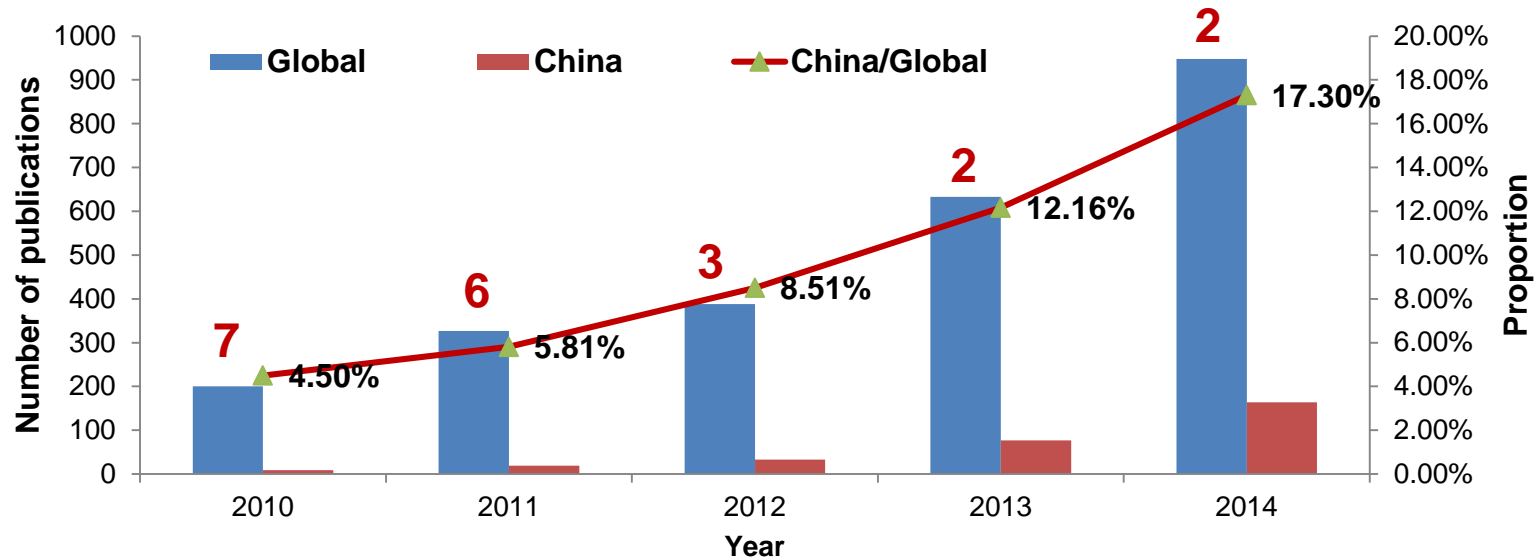
Reproduction is prohibited when using gametes or embryos other than a permitted egg or sperm or embryo: (a) from the ovaries of a woman or testes of a man (b) nuclear or mitochondrial DNA has not been altered (c) no cell has been added to it other than by division of the embryo's own cells.

The UK

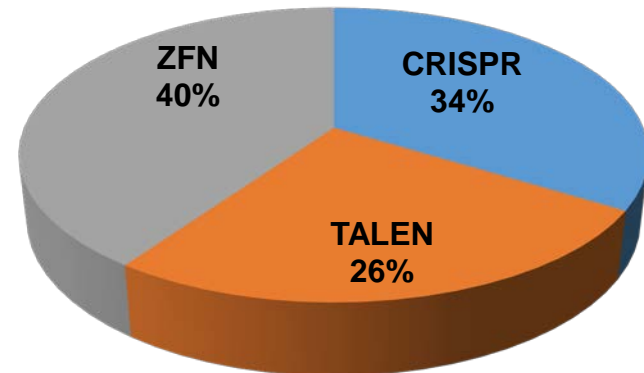
The USA

At present, clinical trial proposals for germline alterations will not be accepted by the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The Food and Drug Administration also regulates the clinical study.

Publications in the field of genome editing



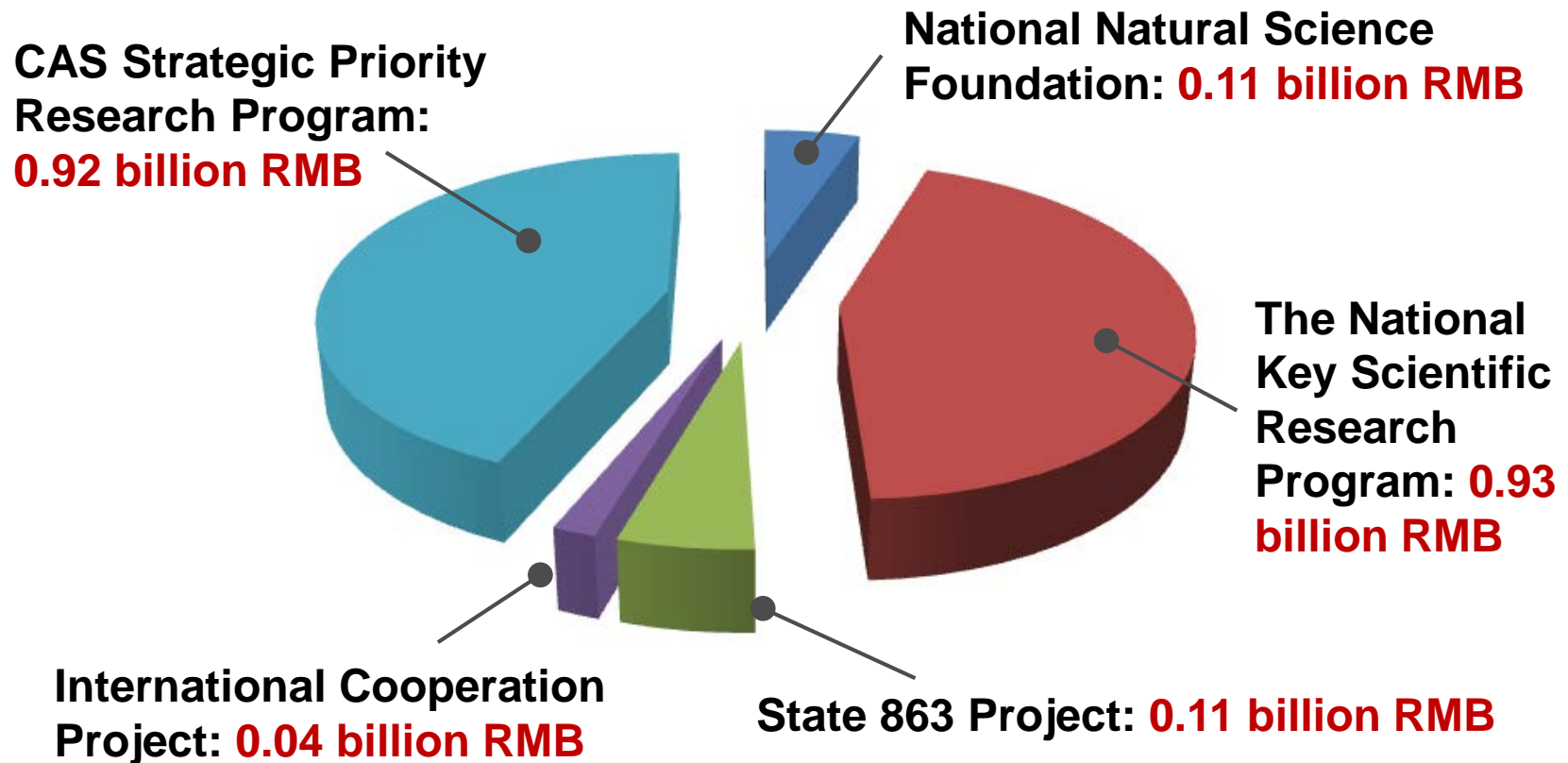
Virus mediated gene editing publications
Proportion in China in 2005~2014



ZFN, CRISPR and TALEN publications
Proportion of China in 2005~2014

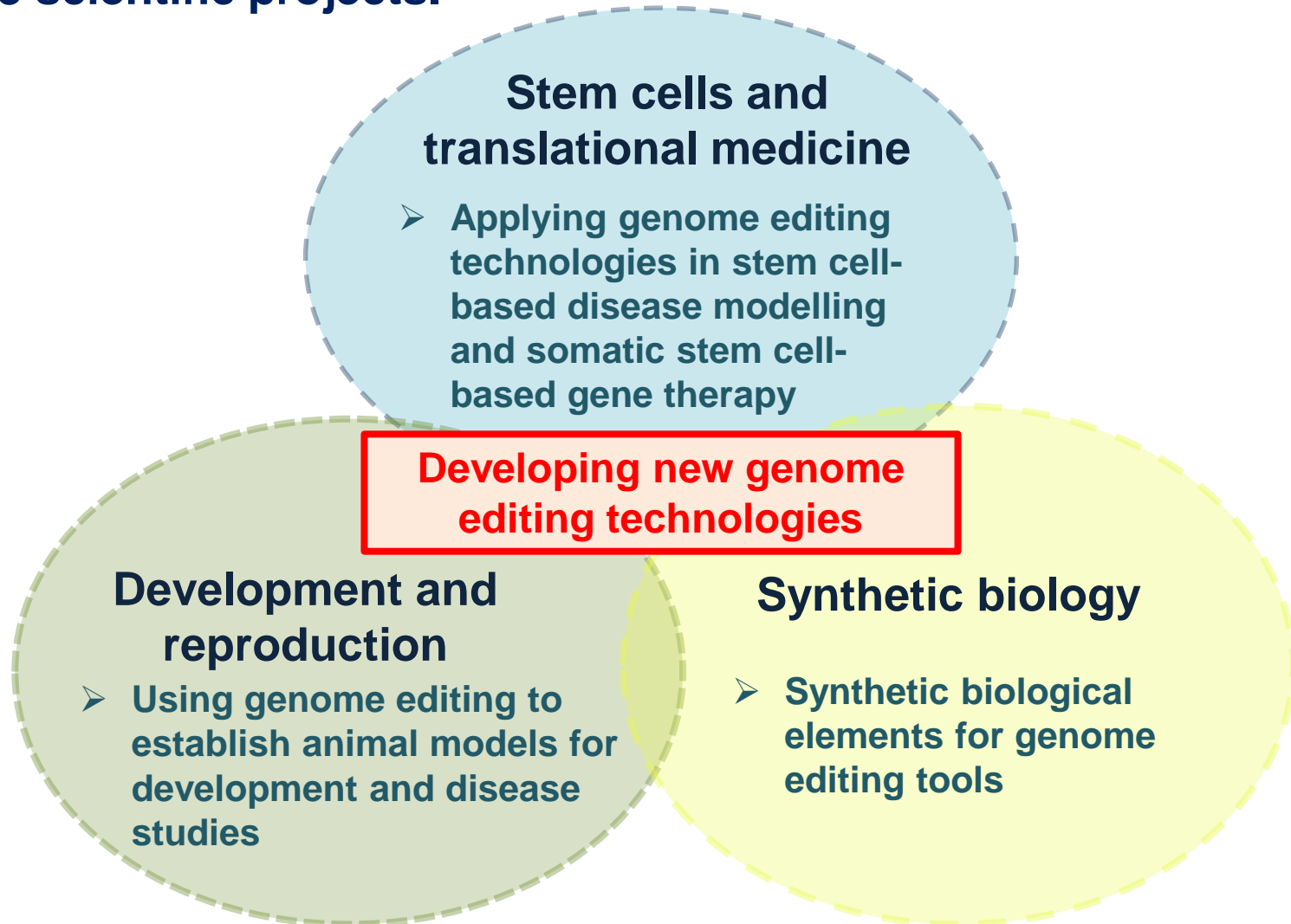
Funding related to human embryos and gene editing

- According to incomplete statistics, the research funding for stem cell fundamental research is **2 billion RMB (about 300 million USD)** in the previous five years.



Overall arrangement on genome editing in next five years (-2020)

- The future R&D plans related to genome editing will be funded by 3 scientific projects.



Funding of stem cell research in next five years (- 2020)

- In the next five years, there will be **2.7 billion RMB (400 million USD)** funding for stem cell research in China, **10%** for gene editing.



The screenshot shows the official website of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China. The header includes the ministry's name in Chinese and English, along with navigation links for Weibo, English, public email, and collection. A search bar is also present. The main navigation bar lists various sections: Home, Organization, News Center, Information Disclosure, Science Policy, Science Plan, Service, Public Participation, and Special Column. The current page is identified as 'Current Location: Science Department Portal > News Center > Notice'. The main content area displays a notice titled 'Stem Cell and Translational Medicine Key Special Project Implementation Plan' (干细胞与转化医学重点专项实施方案征求意见), dated February 26, 2015, from the Ministry of Science and Technology. The notice text states that according to the State Council's plan for reforming the management of central financial science and technology projects, the ministry will launch the 'Stem Cell and Translational Medicine' key special project pilot work. It further mentions that the project has entered the implementation plan drafting stage and is seeking public input on the plan's importance, development trends, existing basis, overall goals, and main tasks. Comments are invited via email to gxbyj@most.cn by March 5, 2015.

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当前位置: 科技部门户 > 新闻中心 > 通知公告

www.most.gov.cn

【字体: 大 中 小】

干细胞与转化医学重点专项实施方案征求意见

日期: 2015年02月26日 来源: 科技部

根据国务院《关于深化中央财政科技计划(专项、基金等)管理改革的方案》总体要求, 科技部将会同有关部门, 启动国家重点研发计划“干细胞与转化医学”重点专项试点工作。

目前, “干细胞与转化医学”重点专项已进入实施方案编制阶段。实施方案主要包括重点专项实施的重要性、发展趋势、现有基础、总体目标、主要任务等。现就重点专项实施方案(征求意见稿, 见附件)向社会征求意见和建议, 请发电子邮件至gxbyj@most.cn, 反馈截止日期为2015年3月5日。

Suggestions from CAS and Society



“Both the Chinese scientists and government are aware of the pros and cons human gene editing. CAS scientists have organized panel discussion meetings and coordinated with related government agencies for regulatory policies on this issue. We would like to work together with international communities for the proper regulation and application of such technology.”

-- Chunli Bai
President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences

Suggestions from CAS and Society

CRISPR germline engineering—the community speaks

Katrine S Bosley, Michael Botchan, Annelien Bredenoord, Dana Carroll, R Alta Charo, Emmanuelle Charpentier, Ron Cohen, Jacob Corn, Jennifer Doudna, Guoping Feng, Henry T Greely, Rosario Isasi, Weihzi Ji, Jin-Soo Kim, Bartha Knoppers, Edward Lanphier, Jinsong Li, Robin Lovell-Badge, G Steven Martin, Jonathan Moreno, Luigi Naldini, Martin Pera, Anthony Perry, J. Craig Venter, Feng Zhang & Qi Zhou

Nature Biotechnology asks key members of the international community to comment on the ethical issues raised by the prospect of CRISPR-Cas9 engineering of the human germline.

With rumors circulating of CRISPR-Cas9-mediated human germline engineering, are we at a new Asilomar moment? In a letter to *Science* in March entitled “A prudent path forward for genomic engineering and germline gene modification,” 18 signers indicated “A framework for open discourse on the use of CRISPR-Cas9 technology to manipulate the human genome is urgently needed.” They wrote of “unparalleled potential for modifying human and nonhuman genomes,” to cure genetic diseases in humans and to “reshape the biosphere.” But they warned of consequent “unknown risks to human health and well-being.”

Nature Biotechnology contacted 50 leaders of the global community including researchers, ethicists and business people to comment on ethical issues raised by CRISPR engineer-

ent efforts into solving the technical problems and testing the safety and efficacy of germline engineering treatment with animal experiments, but we can leave the door open for germline modification for future application in curing some severe diseases.

Is it possible to have an Asilomar-type resolution today, given the questions swirling around CRISPR germline engineering, the international nature of research, and ease of use of technology and rise of ‘garage’ biology outside of traditional centers?

Zhou: I think an Asilomar-type conference involving [AU:OK?]scientists in different countries is a useful way to draw some consensually agreed guidelines to address this question.

The ethical challenges are the same, however. Do we allow such biomedical approaches to be used to achieve genetic enhancement of future generations? Human therapeutic cloning does not directly involve germline changes. For human reproductive cloning, I think the scientific community and governments all over the world have already reached a consensus that it should be banned completely.



Qi Zhou

Suggestions from CAS and Society

- Assigned by China government, CAS has organized several meetings to discuss about human genomic editing and the proper use of human embryos in scientific research, participants including Chinese leading stem cell biologists, the major funding agencies and other related government agencies.
- Chinese Society for Stem Cell Biology has already communicated with ISSCR and other societies about the human gene editing.
- Government agency is collecting suggestions and comments for genome editing for the guidance of regulatory policies.

Thanks