

SCIENTISTS REPAIR A RISKY MUTATION IN HUMAN EMBRYO

MILESTONE IN RESEARCH

Hope for Hereditary Ills,
but Certain to Renew
Ethical Concerns

By PAM BELLUCK

Scientists for the first time have successfully edited genes in human embryos to repair a common and serious disease-causing mutation, producing apparently healthy embryos, according to a study published on Wednesday.

The research marks a major milestone and, while a long way from clinical use, it raises the prospect that gene editing may one day protect babies from a variety of hereditary conditions.

But the achievement is also an example of human genetic engineering, once feared and unthinkable, and is sure to renew ethical concerns that some might try to design babies with certain traits, like greater intelligence or athleticism.

Scientists have long feared the unforeseen medical consequences of making inherited changes to human DNA. The cultural implications may be just as disturbing: Some experts have warned that unregulated genetic engineering may lead to a new form of eugenics, in which people with means pay to have children with enhanced traits even as those with disabilities are devalued.

The study, published in the journal Nature, comes just months after a national scientific committee recommended new guidelines for modifying embryos, easing blanket proscriptions but urging the technique be used only for dire medical problems.

"We've always said in the past gene editing shouldn't be done, mostly because it couldn't be done safely," said Richard Hynes, a cancer researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who

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SHOUKHRAT MITALIPOV

Embryos after gene editing and rounds of cell division.



HANNAH MCKAY/REUTERS

A Different Sort of Brexit

Prince Philip, 96, at his final solo event Wednesday before retiring from his official duties as Queen Elizabeth II's consort. Page A5.

Asians Become Focus of Battle On Admissions

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS
and STEPHANIE SAUL

By most standards, Austin Jia holds an enviable position. A rising sophomore at Duke, Mr. Jia attends one of the top universities in the country, setting him up for success.

But with his high G.P.A., nearly perfect SAT score and activities — debate team, tennis captain and state orchestra — Mr. Jia believes he should have had a fair shot at Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania. Those Ivy League colleges rejected him after he applied in the fall of 2015.

It was particularly disturbing, Mr. Jia said, when classmates with lower scores than his — but who were not Asian-American, like him — were admitted to those Ivy League institutions.

"My gut reaction was that I was super disillusioned by how the whole system was set up," Mr. Jia, 19, said.

Students like Mr. Jia are now the subject of a lawsuit accusing Harvard of discriminating against Asian-Americans in admissions by imposing a penalty for their

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Bluster, Chaos and Warm Embrace of the Right

By JEREMY W. PETERS

WASHINGTON — Sometimes he just wants to know how he's doing, like a maitre d' checking in after a meal. "How's this playing?" President Trump asked Fox News's Sean Hannity over dinner in the private residence of the White House the other night, a few hours after visiting Wisconsin to announce a deal to create thousands of new factory jobs.

Often he's effusive. "I love you, Jim," Mr. Trump told Jim DeMint, the former Heritage Foundation president, during a small gathering of conservative leaders in the Oval Office in March.

And often he delivers. Tony

As Allies Stray, Trump Keeps Conservative Groups Close

Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, pressed Mr. Trump for months to make the statement he issued last week saying transgender people would be barred from the military. "I've been to the White House I don't know how many more times in the first six months this year than I was during the entire Bush administration," Mr. Perkins said.

Mr. Trump has strained rela-

tions with a lot of people these days — members of his own party in Congress, the 55-plus percent of Americans who say they disapprove of his performance, his attorney general, his recently ousted communications director and chief of staff. But through all the drama and dismay, one group has never really wavered: the leaders of the conservative movement.

This is no accident. Mr. Trump and members of his administration have spent their first six months in office cultivating and strengthening ties to the movement's key groups and players with a level of attention and care

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ELAINE THOMPSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

At Amazon, a Prime Day for Job Seekers

Applicants lined up outside a job fair at an Amazon fulfillment center in Kent, Wash., held as part of the company's first Jobs Day, intended to help fill 50,000 positions nationwide. Page B1.

Under Trump, Shell of a Force In Syria Swiftly Lost C.I.A. Aid

This article is by Mark Mazzetti, Adam Goldman and Michael S. Schmidt.

WASHINGTON — The end came quickly for one of the costliest covert action programs in the history of the C.I.A.

During a White House briefing early last month, the C.I.A. director, Mike Pompeo, recommended to President Trump that he shut down a four-year-old effort to arm and train Syrian rebels. The president swiftly ended the program.

The rebel army was by then a shell, hollowed out by more than a year of bombing by Russian planes and confined to ever-shrinking patches of Syria that government troops had not reconquered. Critics in Congress had complained for years about the costs — more than \$1 billion over

the life of the program — and reports that some of the C.I.A.-supplied weapons had ended up in the hands of a rebel group tied to Al Qaeda further sapped political support for the program.

While critics of Mr. Trump have argued that he ended the program to curry favor with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, there were in fact dim views of the effort in both the Trump and Obama White Houses — a rare confluence of opinion on national security policy.

The shuttering of the C.I.A. program, one of the most expensive efforts to arm and train rebels since the agency's program arming the mujahedeen in Afghanistan during the 1980s, has forced a reckoning over its costs

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Wall Street, Climbing Sharply, Skips Washington's 'Soap Opera'

By NELSON D. SCHWARTZ

Despite the disorder in Washington — with a revolving door at the White House and roadblocks on Capitol Hill — Wall Street and corporate America are booming.

The disconnect was evident Wednesday, as the Dow Jones industrial average passed the 22,000 mark, a new high. At the

same time, blue chips like Apple, Caterpillar and U.S. Steel have all reported strong earnings in recent weeks that surpassed analysts' forecasts.

"None of the soap opera in Washington matters," said Frank Sullivan, chief executive of RPM International, a Cleveland-based maker of specialty coatings and sealants like Rust-Oleum. "No-

body in business cares about who talked to who in Russia."

What does matter, Mr. Sullivan said, is stronger global demand in heavy industries like mining and oil and gas, a weaker dollar that helps exporters, and a lighter regulatory touch by the new administration.

The initial stock market rally that followed Mr. Trump's victory

in November — the so-called Trump bump — was fueled by optimism among investors that long-sought action on tax reform and infrastructure spending might finally be at hand.

Few analysts are so sanguine now, especially after Republicans could not agree last month on how to repeal the Affordable Care Act,

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

Trump Approves Russia Bill

The president signed legislation imposing sanctions on Russia and limiting his authority to lift them, but called some provisions unconstitutional. PAGE A8

Regulating a Whaling Life

Indonesian islanders who have hunted whales for centuries bristle at outsiders' efforts at conservation. PAGE A6

NATIONAL A10-14

A Shake-Up of the N.S.C.

The White House is removing hard-liners from the National Security Council, upsetting conservatives. PAGE A10



NEW YORK A15-17

Courts for the Notorious B.I.G.

Basketball courts in Brooklyn were officially dedicated to the rapper, who was killed in 1997. PAGE A15

Jersey City's Wary Welcome

Hasidic Jewish families are establishing outposts in unexpected places, unnerving some residents there. PAGE A17

BUSINESS DAY B1-8

Taking On China Over Tech

With the Trump administration set to accuse China of violations of intellectual property, Washington is likely to find global trade rules favor Beijing. PAGE B1

Racially Charged Union Vote

More than 3,500 workers will decide on unionization this week at a Nissan plant in Mississippi. PAGE B1

SPORTSTHURSDAY B9-13

One Move, \$263 Million

Paris Saint-Germain is poised to more than double the soccer transfer record to acquire Barcelona's Neymar. PAGE B9

ARTS C1-8

Jazz and Improvisation at Play

With his new album, "Verisimilitude," Tyshawn Sorey continues to defy standard definitions of what a composer and musician is supposed to be. PAGE C2

THURSDAY STYLES D1-6

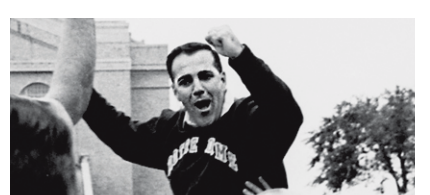
Renaissance Man

Striking out on his own, Matthew Williams, a former collaborator of Kanye West and Lady Gaga, uprooted his family and moved to Italy. PAGE D1

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A18-19

R. James Woolsey

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OBITUARIES B14-16

A Notre Dame Football Savior

Ara Parseghian took over an Irish program that had been in decline for years, and led it to national titles in 1966 and 1973. He was 94. PAGE B14



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