Reproductive Rights in the Era of CRISPR

Presentation by Jonathan Mills
Key Concepts:

- Somatic vs. Germ Cells
- Gene Editing vs. Gene Therapy
- Therapeutic vs. Non-therapeutic Modifications
The use of CRISPR to genetically engineer human embryos will adversely impact societal diversity by perpetuating “superior” human traits in terms of race, class, and overall ability.
What is CRISPR?

Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats

http://worldgenetics.com/need-know-crispr-gene-editing/

http://thestateweekly.com/the-organic-review-genetically-modified-designer-baby-is-born/

https://rank.ezvid.com/genetically-modified-animals-one-can-own
Pre-CRISPR Reproductive Technologies

https://www.bioedge.org/bioethics/ectogenesis-the-end-of-the-abortion-debate/12493

https://lifeivfcenter.com/ivf-treatments/


Eugenic History in America

[Chart indicating immigration into the United States with data from 1861 to 2010]

http://www.immigrationeis.org/about-eis/us-immigration-history

CRISPR as a Eugenic Practice

Idealized images of masculinity and femininity as presented in sperm and egg donor data

Racial makeup of donors as well as favored traits/characteristics
Table 1: Race and Ethnicity of Sperm Donors (2012)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>9380</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>66.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>12.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>14.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>4.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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</table>

Table 2: Race and Ethnicity of Egg Donors (2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race and Ethnicity</th>
<th>Egg Donors Population</th>
<th>Percentage of Egg Donor Population</th>
<th>Percentage of U.S. Female Population</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>76.04</td>
<td>65.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6.13</td>
<td>12.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latina</td>
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<td>5.29</td>
<td>15.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6.13</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6.41</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data collected from the top 12 sperm banks in the U.S. that operate on a national scale (includes: California Cyrobank, Cryogenic Laboratories (two sites), Cryogram Colorado, Fairfax Cyrobank and Fairfax Doctorate (two sites), Idant Laboratories, New England Cyrogenic Center, Fertility Center of California, Pacific Reproductive Services, Xytex, and Zygen Laboratories.
Who should decide?

Government control vs. Parental Autonomy
Other Forms of Discrimination

https://sites.google.com/site/classismandyou/classism-and-social

https://www.meriahnichols.com/stopableismbecause/
Control over the Child-Bearer’s Body


https://www.bioedge.org/bioethics/ectogenesis-the-end-of-the-abortion-debate/12493

http://newyorkcircle.org/?exhibition=on-commodification-and-self-ownership
The Future of Humanity


Literature Cited:


