

# American Scientists Are Trying To Genetically Modify Human Eggs

*Exclusive: The new gene-editing method could eliminate inherited diseases from affected families*

[Steve Connor](#),

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**A note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.**

American scientists have attempted to modify the DNA of human egg cells using a new gene-editing technique that could eliminate inherited diseases from subsequent generations of affected families, *The Independent* can reveal. The research was carried out on ovary cells taken from a woman with inherited ovarian cancer to investigate the possibility of eventually using gene-editing to produce IVF embryos free of the familial disease. The results are yet to be published.

Editing the chromosomes of human eggs or sperm to create genetically modified IVF embryos is illegal in Britain and many other countries because of concerns about safety and the possibility of the technique being used to create genetically enhanced “designer babies.” However, the development of a simple gene-editing technique which can alter human DNA with extreme precision has raised the prospect of it being used in the future to help couples affected by inherited diseases who would like children free of the family mutations.

Several teams of researchers around the world are believed to be working on ways of modifying the chromosomes of human egg cells with a view to moving towards “germ-line” gene therapy, as the process is called. Germ-line refers to the “germ” cells – sperm and eggs – that pass on genes to future generations. However, other scientists have called for a moratorium on editing the human germ-line, arguing that it is ethically unacceptable because it is too unpredictable and too risky.

Nevertheless, researchers at Harvard Medical School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, have attempted to use the Crispr (pronounced “Crisper”) gene-editing technique on human ovarian tissue cultured in the lab to see if it might be possible to correct the defective BRAC1 gene involved in inherited breast and ovarian cancer. As ovarian cells develop into egg cells, the research is likely to have involved the altering of some immature egg cells, known as oocytes.

The work was carried out last year by Luhan Yang, a researcher working in the lab of the veteran Harvard geneticist George Church. But the study has not been published in a scientific journal and Dr Yang was unavailable for comment.

Professor Church emphasized that the work was...

*To read this article in its entirety, go to:*

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/american-scientists-are-trying-to-genetically-modify-human-eggs-10107632.html>

**Note from Pastor Kevin Lea:** *Much of this research is being performed because geneticists know that the mutation rate in the human genome will result in extinction of the species within a few thousand years unless something can be done (see [Genetic Entropy and the Mystery of the Genome](#) by Dr, J.C. Sanford or this article by Sean D. Pitman M.D. <http://tinyurl.com/mn89hu9>).*

*The facts about the deleterious mutation rates of the human genome demonstrate that we are degrading (devolving), not “upgrading,” as the evolutionists have been preaching for decades. The following is a quote from Dr. Pitman’s article:*

*As James F. Crow of the University of Wisconsin asked rhetorically, in a commentary in Nature on Eyre-Walker and Keightley’s analysis: “Why aren’t we extinct?”*