

## US supreme court to decide if companies can patent human genes

*The following is an excerpt.*

The [US supreme court](#) will hear oral arguments next week to decide whether companies can patent human genes, in a landmark case which could alter the course of US [medical research](#) and the battle against diseases such as breast and [ovarian cancer](#).

A coalition of scientists, [cancer](#) survivors, patients, [breast cancer](#) groups and professional medical associations, which has brought the case, will argue that genes are “products of nature”, like organs of the body and should not be exploited for commercial gain.

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