

Is it wrong to 'play God' with human genome?

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

The announcement that [scientists are to be allowed to edit the DNA of human embryos](#) will no doubt provoke an avalanche of warnings from opponents of genetic modification (GM) technology, who will warn that we are "playing God" with our genes.

The opponents are right. We are indeed playing God with our genes. But it is a good thing because God, nature or whatever we want to call the agencies that have made us, often get it wrong and it's up to us to correct those mistakes.

Sadly, of the half a million or so babies that will be born in the UK this year, about 4% will carry a genetic or major birth defect that could result in an early death, or a debilitating disease that will cause misery for the child and their family. This research will eventually lead to technologies that could edit DNA in the same way that we can edit text – to correct the mistakes before the child's development goes to its final draft. Its successful implementation could reduce, and eventually eliminate, the birth of babies with severe genetic diseases.

But our DNA is considered to be so special that the phrase "it's in his/her DNA" is said with the same sense of fatalism that our ancestors would have spoken of their fate or their soul. Anti-GM activists, many of whom are devout atheists, often insist that our DNA is somehow special, something donated to us by an all-powerful, wise and benevolent nature, which has taken God's place as our creator.

Read full, original post: [Genetic editing is like playing God ? and what's wrong with that?](#)