

NIH director says no one should edit genomes to make designer babies

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

Gene editing must never be used to create “designer babies” with enhanced abilities, the director of the National Institutes of Health told a gathering of top scientists on [July 12].

More provocatively, [NIH Chief Francis Collins] also said that science is not ready for the controversial new technology to be used to eliminate genetic diseases that are passed down from one generation to the next.

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“I think we should be pushing [CRISPR in adult cells] at maximum speed,” [Collins said]. “But germline — no.”

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“I do believe that humans are...individuals and a species with a special relationship to God, and that requires of a great deal of humility about whether we are possessed of enough love and intelligence and wisdom to start manipulating our own species,” [Collins] said.

But Collins does not speak for all Christians. Following Collins’ remarks, Rev Ronald Cole-Turner...told the committee that some Christian groups are open to gene editing in human embryos — if scientists can prove that it’s safe.

**Read full, original post:** [No One Should Edit The Genes Of Embryos To Make Babies, NIH Chief Says](#)