

## Gene editing will challenge ethics at Biological Weapons Convention

[T]he signatory nations of the [Biological Weapons Convention \(BWC\)](#) will meet [on December 2016]...to discuss the state of bioweapons globally...[T]he world has radically changed since they last met...in 2011. The discovery of several novel gene-editing techniques...has unleashed a torrent of studies that aim to cure everything from cancer to world hunger.

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[However, t]he discovery...that scientists in [China have begun using gene-editing techniques on human embryos](#)...has ignited a vigorous global debate about the limits we ought to have when manipulating biology.

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The advent of CRISPR has corresponded with a widespread democratization of biology. Gene-editing kits are cheap, legal, and relatively easy to use. [DIY biohacking spaces](#) have proliferated throughout the world...

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The potential for gene-editing techniques to engineer biological weapons of unprecedented power...will pose a significant challenge to the values and ethics captured in the BWC treaty. There was a reason we, as a global community, decided to close the book on biowarfare: You can't un-invent a lethal weapon. But is it...possible to be exclusively defensive when confronting death by biology?

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [Accessible Synthetic Biology Raises New Concerns for DIY Biological Warfare](#)**