

Stephen Hawking's warning: Gene-edited 'superhumans' threaten the rest of humanity

The late physicist and author Prof [Stephen Hawking](#) has caused controversy by suggesting a new race of superhumans could develop from wealthy people choosing to edit their and their children's DNA.

Hawking, the author of A Brief History of Time, [who died in March](#), made the predictions in a collection of articles and essays.

The scientist presented the possibility that genetic engineering could create a new species of superhuman that could destroy the rest of humanity.

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"I am sure that during this century, people will discover how to modify both intelligence and instincts such as aggression," he wrote.

"Laws will probably be passed against genetic engineering with humans. But some people won't be able to resist the temptation to improve human characteristics, such as memory, resistance to disease and length of life."

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"Once such superhumans appear, there will be significant political problems with unimproved humans, who won't be able to compete," he wrote. "Presumably, they will die out, or become unimportant. Instead, there will be a race of self-designing beings who are improving at an ever-increasing rate."

The comments refer to [techniques such as Crispr Cas9](#), a DNA-editing system that was invented six years ago, allowing scientists to modify harmful genes or add new ones.

Read full, original post: [Essays reveal Stephen Hawking predicted race of 'superhumans'](#)