

Email Submission: Paul Whale

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am not sure if my submission will arrive in time to be accepted.

However I feel that we need to consider very carefully what we do with genetic modification in the future, and take care to label it as genetically modified.

There is a risk of over regulation, but also a danger of allowing self regulation.

This is an area of science that the public needs to know what is happening and appropriate labelling is legislated. This is not foolproof but should be required.

There is also the matter of what how we as humanity are to treat probabilities of contracting diseases in the future. As happens in many things in life, the arts have already considered possible pitfalls in this area. In the film GATTACA, there is a deleted scene, which would have enhanced the film whereby a (non exhaustive) list of world famous people who had conditions that may have resulted in them not being born given advanced genetic screening. The list included Abraham Lincoln, Emily Dickinson, Vincent Van Gogh, Albert Einstein, John F Kennedy, Rita Hayworth, Ray Charles, Stephen Hawking and Jackie Joyner Kersee. Ending with "Of course the birth that may never have taken place is your own"

We need to carefully consider the road science is taking us down, and the full implications of our advancements. There is always the chance that scientist somewhere will push regulatory boundaries, however this is no reason for us not to set the bar high and legislate for full disclosure of all genetic modifications to consumers.

Yours Faithfully

Paul Whale