



*Working to benefit all people
affected by genetic disorders*

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News release

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GIG welcomes the HFEAs decision to grant a new license.

The Genetic Interest Group today announced that it welcomed the HFEA's decision to grant a new license to a London clinic to screen embryos for a genetic form of bowel cancer. Alastair Kent, Director commented

"We think this is a sensible decision made by the HFEA. It's not an easy decision to be made by the patient and if it's possible to select an embryo through PGD, not only will they have a healthy child but it will also remove the threat of the condition appearing in future children.

The treatment for this particular condition is not very effective and can be very unpleasant. Alastair Kent also noted that "They do not always detect when the disease has moved into an active phase".

Ends

For more information please contact

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Notes to Editors

- **The Genetic Interest Group (GIG)** is a national alliance of organisations with a membership of over 130 charities that support children, families and individuals affected by genetic disorders.
- It's primary goal is to promote awareness and understanding of genetic disorders so that high quality services for people affected by genetic conditions are developed and made available to all who need them.
- Individually, many genetic conditions are rare and as such it is difficult to raise their profile and the needs of those affected by them. GIG provides a common platform from which effective programmes to raise awareness, inform the media and influence government, industry and the NHS can be launched
- As an organisation focusing on issues of policy and practice GIG keeps an active watch on developments in the UK and Europe that will influence the effective transfer of knowledge and understanding into products and services for families that are supported by our member groups.
- In a potentially controversial field like genetics GIG provides a strong voice advocating the benefits of scientific progress in understanding the contribution being made now and that will be made in the years to come for improving health and combating many currently incurable diseases.

Registered Office:

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A Registered Charity (Number 803424)