



*Working to benefit all people
affected by genetic disorders*

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News release

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GIG welcomes the HFEA's decision to grant a license for new cutting edge research.

The Genetic Interest Group today welcomed the HFEA's decision to grant a new license to Newcastle University Medical School and the Newcastle Fertility Centre at Centre for Life, for pioneering research aimed at preventing the transmission of mitochondrial DNA disease from mother to child.

Alastair Kent, Director commented today

"This is an excellent decision and good news for patients. Mitochondrial diseases are extremely cruel and often life threatening and any research that is aimed at developing treatment is welcomed by the Genetic Interest Group. This research may lead to life saving treatments for very serious rare disorders and has the potential to also lead onto more general applications for other disorders.

This research is not reproductive cloning and it will not lead to the slippery slope that we often hear about. The research has the potential to eradicate some terrible diseases and as such should be welcomed as it will help many children and families affected by genetic disorders.

We welcome this groundbreaking research and hope it produces the results the scientists are looking for".

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.

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A Registered Charity (Number 803424)