



*Working to benefit all people
affected by genetic disorders*

Unit 4D Leroy House
436 Essex Road
London
N1 3QP

Tel: 020 7704 3141

news release

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Patients and families welcome Government position on cytoplasmic hybrid research

Following the letter from 223 patient groups and medical research charities to the Prime Minister calling for research using hybrid embryos to be encouraged, the Genetic Interest Group (GIG) welcomes the recognition of the value of this research by the Government.

“This is a humane and sensible response to the views of patients, scientists and doctors on the importance of this research, which brings hope to those affected by severe, life limiting diseases. We are a step closer to an efficient, proportionate regulation to promote and control this work, and make the benefits it offers happen sooner rather than later,” said Alastair Kent, GIG’s Director.

“We hope the HFEA takes notice of the Government’s intention when considering the results of its current consultation on this issue.”

Ends

For more information please contact

Alastair Kent, The Genetic Interest Group

07740 931 646

Email address:

alastair@gig.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- The letter sent to the Prime Minister was sent on the 5th of April by members of the Genetic Interest Group and the Association of Medical Research Charities.

- The Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) is a membership organisation of the leading medical and health research charities in the UK. Working with 111 member charities and partners, they aim to support the sector's effectiveness and advance medical research by developing best practice, providing information and guidance, improving public dialogue about research and science, and influencing government.
- **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.
- Our 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:

The Genetic Interest Group
Unit 4D, Leroy House
London
N1 3QP

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