



*Working to benefit all people  
affected by genetic disorders*

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## news release

For Immediate Release: 21/02/07

### **HFEA makes a positive decision for patients and research.**

The Genetic Interest Group (GIG) the UK national alliance of patient organisations for families affected by genetic disorders is delighted that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) announced today that women will be able to donate eggs for research purposes, following their six month public consultation. Set within the current regulation by the HFEA this new ruling will enable scientists to explore more opportunities for understanding disease.

Alastair Kent, Director of GIG said “We are very pleased with the decision made by the HFEA. The potential benefits to thousands of patients currently living with genetic conditions for which there is no treatment or cure are great. Under the tightly regulated system we have already in the UK, this is a positive step forward and will provide much needed eggs for research purposes”

Alastair added “It is a women’s choice to donate eggs for this purpose, as long as you can ensure they have not been put under any pressure to do so. Women can already choose to donate eggs for IVF treatment for others, and we are delighted that this altruistic choice can now be extended to research.”

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**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.
- 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:**

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A Registered Charity (Number 803424)