# Introduction to Ethics in Genetics

The opinions of the general population towards any particular issue is usually the determining factor in the types of research involving it that are allowed to be done in many countries. In keeping with this, the popular beliefs held by many people concerning genetics are the ones that govern the laws concerning experimentation in genetics. In the United States, this has lead to the banning of human cloning. In other countries, the same laws are being passed, but there are a few where no such laws have been passed.

Bioethics and Genethics are the two areas in which the ethics of doing different types of research are questioned. Today, the question is merely should people genetically enhance food. In the future, people will be questioning the ethics of genetically engineering children. There are many issues that are problems in the present, but there are more problems that can be easily seen in the future. Genethics and Bioethics researchers try to answer these questions and solve the problems before they can create too many problems outside the scientific world.

There are many problems concering the ethics of what has already been done in genetics. People are still critical of genetically enhanced food, but it has been on the market for several years. The Davis tomato is a perfect example of this. many consumers buy the Davis tomato instead of a regular tomato. Why? The Davis tomato looks and tastes better than the traditionally produced tomato. Although there is a government requirement that genetically engineered food be labeled as such, many people don't notice the labels. Think about how often you look at a label when you shop. Usually, the price and quality are the most important factors. Genetically engineered products can often be produced at a lower price and are of better quality because they have been engineered to be that way. However, there are still people who don't think that food should be genetically enhanced.

Another issue in genetics is cloning. Although a sheep, Dolly, was cloned in the United Kingdom, many people have reservations about cloning. There is a strong anti-cloning sentiment where people are concerned in many places. Many people question the ethics of scientists who would clone people, or even animals. This is a hotly debated question, and there is no real answer to it yet.

Also an issue in genetics is the use of genetics to treat diseases that are both inherited and contracted. Gene therapy is becoming an increasingly available option for cancer patients, and there are plenty of possibilities for the genetic treatment of many other diseases. Generally, this is an accepted use of genetics. However, there are those who are against this form of treatment. They are becoming more and more of a minority as the benefits of using gene therapy are being explored.

There are many more ethics issues in genetics, but this is because the field is new in science. Also, genetics can and will have an impact on many different areas of science. It is already determining whether or not babies have certain genetic disorders before they are born so that parents have the opportunity to prepare for their child, whether or not it's healthy. The field is expanding rapidly and has not real bounds in sight. Rules haven't been established yet. Genetics is to medicine and biological science what atomic energy was to physics. It hasn't been accepted yet because people don't know that much about genetics. However, most people know that genetics is changing the world.

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