



Editing & Manipulating Human Embryos & Cells:

Has Science Gone Too Far?

4–6pm, December 18, 2017

Rosso Pizzeria (8738 109 St, Edmonton)

Drinks and light refreshments will be provided



In August 2017, it was reported that scientists had successfully edited genes in human embryos.

The scientists used a gene-editing technology known as CRISPR to repair a gene that causes a hereditary disease in humans. CRISPR is groundbreaking technology that can be applied to a variety of uses, including prevention and treatment of disability and disease, and altering human embryos and reproductive cells (sperm and egg) to introduce characteristics that enhance or improve human traits and abilities. Other techniques allow scientists to manipulate human cells to create human embryos for research purposes. Some question whether such research and clinical applications justify messing with the human genome. Should such science be allowed and where do we draw the line between justifiable and unjustifiable uses?

This **Philosopher's Café** event will answer all your questions regarding human embryo research and the application of gene editing to humans. The Café experts will discuss the science and associated moral, ethical, legal and societal implications.

Dr. Erin Nelson is a Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta. She is a Fellow of the Health Law Institute and former Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Law. Her areas of expertise include health care law and ethics, women's health, issues in reproductive health, and feminist legal theory. Her book, *Law, Policy and Reproductive Autonomy* (Hart, 2013), explores theoretical and practical issues in reproductive decision-making.

Dr. Stacey Hume is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (U of A), and the Co-Director of the Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, Alberta Health Services. In addition to being a clinical geneticist, Dr. Hume is an expert on methods for identifying variations in the human genome.

Dr. Ubaka Ogbogu is an Assistant Professor in the Faculties of Law and Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the Katz Research Fellow in Health Law and Science Policy, at the University of Alberta. His areas of expertise include health law, law and bioethics, and law and science policy. He has research and written extensively on the ethical, legal and social implications of stem cell and genetic research and technologies. He is the recipient of the 2015 Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations Distinguished Academic Early Career Award.

Dr. Basil Hubbard is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta, and a Canada Research Chair in Molecular Therapeutics. His research involves using cutting-edge biochemistry and molecular biology, including gene-editing technologies, to identify and treat aging and age-related disease.

This event is sponsored by a Stem Cell Network Public Policy Impact Grant awarded to Dr. Ubaka Ogbogu and Prof. Amy Zarzeczny (University of Regina)