



# FASEB

Federation of American Societies  
for Experimental Biology

## Representing Over 130,000 Researchers

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### FASEB Statement on Claim of Gene-Edited Human Embryos

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) reiterates the considerable ethical concerns raised by leaders within the research community regarding reports of the birth of human twins resulting from embryos in which a particular gene was disrupted using CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology. As noted in a statement<sup>1</sup> by Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, Director of the National Institutes of Health, the scientists who pursued this work demonstrated flagrant violation of international ethical norms. CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing is a powerful, yet relatively untested scientific technique, and further research studies are necessary to improve and demonstrate the safety and specificity of this technology before it is applied to experiments in human embryos. In fact, shortly after its discovery, many research organizations, including several FASEB member societies, issued statements<sup>2,3,4,5</sup> supporting a voluntary moratorium on the use of this technology in human embryos. FASEB strongly supports these perspectives and therefore is against the use of gene editing technologies to alter human embryos at this time.

*Approved by the FASEB Executive Committee on December 12, 2018*

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<sup>1</sup> [NIH Statement on Claim of First Gene-Edited Babies by Chinese Researcher](#) (November 28, 2018)

<sup>2</sup> [ASHG Reaffirms 2017 Position Statement on Germline Genome Editing](#) (November 26, 2018)

<sup>3</sup> [AAAS Statement on Recent Media Reports of Human Gene-Editing](#) (November 27, 2018)

<sup>4</sup> [Position Statement from the Society for Developmental Biology on Genomic Editing in Human Embryos](#) (April 24, 2015)

<sup>5</sup> [Position Statement of the American Society for Investigative Pathology on Manipulation of the Human Genome](#) (November 23, 2015)