

Currently, embryonic
research using crispr-
cas9 genome editing,



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Currently, the United States has put a moratorium on the type of CRISPR research that would allow for working with a human embryo or stem cell.

The National Institutes of Health are in the debate stage of proposed regulations for such research. China, India, Japan and Ireland have bans in place but no legal mechanisms for enforcement (Gould, Loria, 2015). China is leading the way in embryonic research, two of their scientists have delivered the most recent breakthrough in genome editing, but claim to use only non-viable embryos for research. It is not likely to stay that way given the countries desire to be the leader in biotechnology. If the US continues to drag its feet on coming up with clear guidelines for embryonic research using CRISPR-cas9 genome editing, we will lose the opportunity to dictate guidelines for safe practices for the rest of the world. We need this technology and all the positives that come along with it. Scientists agree that base editing clinical trials for treatments are still a few years away and that it could be even longer to determine whether these new systems will be better than the current ones.

However you slice it, the advances in CRISPR-Cas9 are exciting and very promising for the future. This new era in genome editing is posing many ethical and moral questions that we will need to answer. I, for one, am looking forward to taking part in the conversation.