

Human Genome Research: Societal and Ethical Issues

Research Paper

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for

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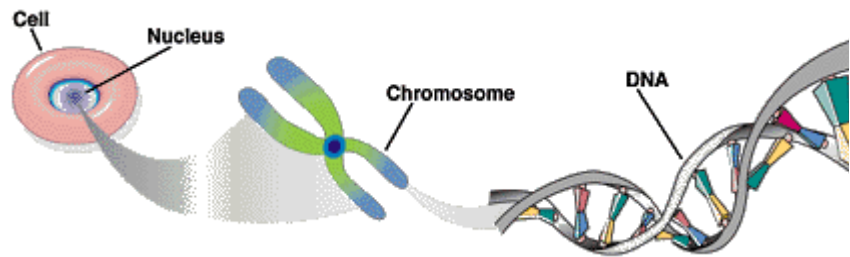
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ABSTRACT:

This paper explores the ramifications of the human genome project. A background of genome research is given and the links to relevant web resources. One natural outgrowth of the genome project is the use of the information to make possible genetic therapies. Several societal and ethical questions are raised and discussed. Some unanticipated consequences are forward and discussed as well.

OVERVIEW:

The recent publishing of the complete human genome has brought forward many exciting possibilities as well as ethical questions that must be faced.

Lee M. Silver, Professor of Molecular Biology, Princeton University envisions the day, in the not too distant future, when couples who want to have a child will review a list of traits of

computer screen, put together combinations of "virtual child decide on one they want, click on the appropriate selection thus, in effect, design their own offspring.

Stephen Hawking, among others, has suggested that gene engineering could be used to reduce human aggression.

People living today could determine the genetic makeup of future generations. Some see this as a nightmare scenario, par with the holocaust. People could be genetically classified stereotyped and discriminated against on the basis of their What us the right to play God and remake humanity? What unintended of consequences could there be?

The links on the left are pages in this paper and include:

Background: Human genome research.

Social Impact: How does human genetic modification affect society?

Ethical Questions: Questions of rights, fairness and common good of human genetic modification.

Legal Implications: How is genetic therapy treated from a standpoint?

Unanticipated Consequences: What could happen as gene modification technology improves?

Resource Links: Additional links and credits.

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