

Hannah Stivers

Ethical Considerations of CRISPR Gene Editing

Question:

Based on your readings related to the Bio Cybersecurity section of this course, identify possible ethical considerations and explain your position.

Response:

Within the experimentation phase, we are relying on the parents' consent of whether or not to follow through with the gene editing. However, since the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, we have identified that life starts at conception. I'm bringing this into view because that unborn fetus has not given consent to genetic changes being made to it, the parent has. So, this could bring in that controversial conversation. Who has the right to determine if a fetus can be experimented on with gene editing?

Some other aspects to consider would be the reasoning behind genetic editing. Is it being done because the parents are vain enough to want their child to look a specific way or have certain characteristics? Or is the gene editing being done to help that child have a healthier life by avoiding possible genetic diseases or abnormalities?

The last ethical reasoning, and in my opinion the least important, would be the religious viewpoint. Those who strongly believe in God's will will protest this being done because it is as if the scientists are playing God by editing the genes a child should get. I think this is the least important view to look at because there should be a difference between church and state. However, as seen with Roe vs. Wade, religion has a higher impact on these decisions than should be allowed.