

必須徹查「基因編輯嬰」事件並追究責任

中英社評

宣稱「成功製造」基因編輯嬰兒的賀建奎，昨日出現在香港大學舉行的「國際人類基因編輯峰會」上並發言，成為矚目的焦點人物。

賀建奎的「一舉成名」，並不在於其科研成果對人類社會和健康帶來了什麼正面裨益，恰恰相反，由於他違反國家科研法規和道德倫理的瘋狂行爲，令人們對相關研究工作產生了極大的不安、反感以至恐懼，中外基因科學界和團體更對之作出了強烈的譴責和抨擊。作爲一位科研工作者，賀建奎應該爲此感到愧疚，更必須對由此而引起的一切嚴重後果負上法律和道義責任，接受應有的懲處。

連日來，國家衛健委、科技部、中國醫學科學院、中國工程學院等部門已紛紛就事件作出回應及表明立場，指出國家始終重視和維護人民的健康權益，開展科學研究和醫療活動必須按照有關法律法規和倫理準則進行，對違法違規行爲堅決予以查處。

國家及省市相關部門的回應和行動，是及時和必要的，「基因編輯嬰」事件不僅令科研工作蒙羞，更會對國家科研聲譽造成極大的傷害。過去，西方反華勢力不斷造謠說中國販賣人體器官，操控嬰兒性別，違反國際醫療倫理與法規，如今這個賀建奎的「成功誕生基因編輯嬰兒」，不啻又爲一些人藉醫療問



◀宣稱「成功製造」基因編輯嬰兒的賀建奎（中），出現在香港大學舉行的「國際人類基因編輯峰會」上並發言

題抹黑中國送上彈藥，影響是極其惡劣的。

眼前，就此事件，必須循三方面進行調查和懲處，不能蒙混過關、輕輕放過。

首先，事件的監管責任何在？無疑，人類基因研究是當前科研熱點，於生命科學有重大意義，亦不違法，賀建奎個人從事這方面的研究工作無可厚非；但問題是包括中國在內的各國科技和醫衛部門都有明確規定，經過基因改造的人工受孕細胞只可以在實驗室內存放不多於十四日，更不可將之植入母體子宮

內孕育成長及出生。賀建奎的「成功誕嬰」已明顯違反了相關規定，於法是不能容許的。

二是在整個事件中，深圳南方科技大學校方的角色和責任到底何在？賀的「誕嬰」工作是否得到批准和有無監管？賀聲稱有七對夫婦參與實驗，每對夫婦「成本」二十八萬元，經費從何而來？「南科大」校方事後表示「不知情」，說是賀的「校外行爲」，似是搪塞之詞。

三是有關事件不僅在科研工作上違反法規、有悖倫理，而且更可能涉及到

不法經營和牟利，這就更是令人髮指和不可以接受的。此事如不被嚴格依法追究，日後用金錢就可以改變胎兒的基因組成和性別，以至誕下「超級嬰兒」、「魔鬼怪嬰」，後果將是災難性的。

事件顯示，內地個別大學或科研機構在體制和監管上存在漏洞，甚至默許「謀財害命」、個別科研工作者追求「名利雙收」、「一鳴驚人」，不惜埋沒良心和道德，幹出瘋狂和危險之事，都是必須被強烈譴責、追究責任和予以遏止的。

2018-11-29

"Gene-edited babies" incident must be thoroughly investigated to find out who is to blame

He Jiankui, who claims to have "successfully produce" gene-edited babies, yesterday showed up and spoke at the Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing held at the University of Hong Kong, becoming a focus of attention.

He Jiankui's "springing into fame with a single move" is not because his research results bring certain positive benefit to human society and health. On the contrary, his crazy conduct, which violates national regulations on scientific and technological research and code of ethics, causes great unnerving, disgusting and even fear toward related researches. Academics and organisations in **genome** research home and aboard have strongly condemned and criticised his move. As a scientific researcher, He Jiankui should feel ashamed and guilty about it, and furthermore must take up legal and moral responsibilities for all consequences caused and accept due punishments.

In the past few days, the National Health Commission, Ministry of Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Chinese Academy of Engineering and other departments have each respectively made its response to and clarify its stand on the issue, pointing out that the state always attaches importance to and safeguard people's right to health. Medical researches and activities must be pursued in accordance with relevant laws and regulations and code of ethics, and any law- or regulation-breaking conduct must be investigated and dealt with resolutely.

Relevant national, provincial and municipal departments' reactions and actions are timely and necessary. This "gene-edited babies" incident disgraces scientific research works and what is more, causes great harm to the reputation of the nation's scientific research. In the past, anti-China elements in the West kept **cooking up** and spreading stories about China violating international code of medical ethics and regulations by selling human organs and manipulating the gender of babies. Now such a story about He Jiankui's "successfully producing gene-edited babies" is exactly like supplying ammunition to those who smear China regarding medical care issues, the influence being extremely bad.

Right now, the incident must be investigated and dealt with from three perspectives. Whoever responsible must not be allowed to slipped

away unpunished or **let off** lightly.

Who, in the first place, is responsible for supervision in this incident? No doubt, human genome research is a research hotspot at present, which is of great significance for life sciences and not unlawful. Hence there is nothing to be said against He Jiankui personally conducting researches in this field. The problem lies in that authorities of science and technology, medical care and health in various countries including China have specifically stipulations that a genetic-engineered artificially fertilised egg can only be stored in a laboratory for no more than 14 days and must never be implanted in the mother's womb to be born. He Jiankui's "success in producing [gene-edited] babies" obviously violates relevant stipulations and is intolerable legally.

Secondly, what a role did the Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen play in this incident and what was its responsibility? Was He's "producing babies" given the green light and supervised? He claimed there were seven couples participating in the experiment and the "cost" for each couple was 280,000 yuan. Where did he get the fund? The Southern University of Science and Technology said in the aftermath that it "knew nothing about it" and He's [experiment] was "his conduct outside school". This sounds just like a statement of excuse.

Thirdly, the incident not only violates laws and regulations and goes against the code of ethics but even likely involves illegal business operation and profit-making. This would be even more disgusting and unacceptable. If it is not strictly dealt with in accordance with the law, then in future a fetus' genome and gender could be changed with money.

Eventually this might even lead to giving birth to "super babies" or "demonic babies". The consequences would be disastrous.

The incident shows that there are structural and supervisory loopholes in a couple of Mainland universities or research institutes, which even **acquiesce** in "murder for gain". Some individual researchers aim at gaining both fame and wealth and **setting the world on fire**, and for this they bury their conscience and morality, going to any length to do crazy and dangerous things. Both such institutions and individuals must be strongly condemned and held liable and their misdeeds be stopped.

29 November 2018

百年蛻變

饒宗頤文化館是擁有百年歷史的三級歷史建築群，位於荔枝角，毗鄰美孚新邨，自1888年起見證着這地區填海及發展的演變。

自2014年，饒館推出「香港

百年蛻變」，向市民大眾推廣香港歷史普及活動。新一年度將以「移山填海」爲主題。「香港百年蛻變之移山填海」

先導講座系列共四講，其中第一講「太平山下」已舉行，餘下三講日期和講題如下：
2019年1月2日（星期三）獅子山下：九龍半島土地之拓展

2019年1月15日（星期二）滄海桑田：新界新市鎮之建置
2019年1月29日（星期二）舊貌新顏：移山填海面觀
時間：晚上7:30-9:30
地點：饒宗頤文化館中區演藝廳（九龍美孚青山道800號）
費用：每講100元
查詢：2100 2828
詳情：www.jtia.hk/hk100yrs

全港首個渠蓋設計比賽

配合渠務署明年成立30年，署方舉辦本港首個渠蓋設計比賽，讓香港人藉此更了解渠蓋鑄造背後的匠心，冠軍作品獎金港幣5,000元，有機會被採用製成實物，於本港範圍使用。
收件時間：即日起至12月15日
對象：市民大眾
要求：蓋面設計須展現下列四個渠務署過去和未來的工作主題範疇之一，即渠務署成立30周年回顧；河道活化；渠管復修；將沙田污水處理廠遷往岩洞，以騰出現址約28公頃土地建屋。
詳情：www.dsdmanholecompetition.hk/

兩代之間

美荷樓徵文賽揭曉 滿載兩代溫馨回憶

香港賽馬會社區資助計劃——美荷樓香港精神學習計劃第四屆「兩代情」徵文比賽揭曉，民政事務局局長劉江華應邀頒獎。多位得獎同學用他們的故事告訴我們兩代情的集體回憶。

張祝珊英文中學的中三同學陳欣豫，以「大手牽小手」的題材奪得初中組冠軍。除了每兩三星期探望一次嫲嫲，關於嫲嫲的事只在父親口裏聽聞。一段時間，欣豫喜歡聽爸爸媽與嫲嫲的故事，這次的作文靈感也源於他們小時候的故事。「以前他們會一起在中秋整月餅、爸爸小時候也會在星期五同嫲嫲去工廠幫忙、看神功戲和吃清心丸等，這都是他們一路以來的生活點滴，共度的時光是快樂的。」

同樣是「大手牽小手」的題材，聖羅撒書院的中三學生盧思齊奪得初中組季軍。從小由奶奶照顧的她，自升上中學後已很少見面，但聽到她從前所住的屋邨即將拆卸，便重回舊地，順道探望奶奶，就這樣她們便聊起以往的趣事。「舊時的生活雖然艱苦，但大家咬緊牙關，互相依靠」思齊的奶奶就是以這種態度支撐整個家。思齊爸爸身為長子，也盡本分照顧弟妹，長大後對媽媽還是敬愛有加，或許這就是我們所說的傳承吧。

「記得從前的鄰舍大門常開，現在已緊緊閉上，反而以往大家感情比較深厚。」思齊一邊走着，一邊回想以往景象，慨嘆近年的科技進步，人與人的相處也由機器取代，「老一輩着重面對面交談，現在年輕人同上一兩代人有好大隔膜。」可能這種相處方式是趨勢，但思齊卻沒有跟着這股風氣走，反而更因這次的比賽，與家人有了更多的溝通，亦比以往更享受與家人相處的時光。

觀塘功樂官立中學的中六學生李昇峻則憑「兩個年代的對話」，獲得高中組亞軍。

實習記者 卓銘軒



▲劉江華（後排中）主持美荷樓兩代情徵文比賽頒獎禮