

HC70A Winter 2009
Opinion Survey
Professor Bob Goldberg
Results
(First-Day Result, Last-Day Result)

1. If you could choose traits for your baby, would you choose to:
 - a. Rule out a genetic disease **88%** **96%**
 - b. Ensure greater intelligence **9%** **0%**
 - c. Influence height or weight or hair/eye color **0%** **0%**
 - d. Select gender (male or female) **0%** **0%**
 - No answer** **3%** **0%**
 - Choose all** **0%** **4%**
2. Should parents that carry a gene for a genetic disease is required to test their children to determine whether they are carriers or have the disease?
 - a. Yes **34%** **70%**
 - b. No **66%** **30%**
3. If you carried a dominant gene for an incurable lethal disease (e.g., Huntington's Disease), would you have your unborn child tested for the gene?
 - a. Yes **100%** **100%**
 - b. No **0%** **0%**
4. If the test showed that the baby would have the lethal disease, would you consider ending the pregnancy through abortion?
 - a. Yes **84%** **81%**
 - b. No **16%** **15%**
 - No Answer** **0%** **4%**
5. Should a child that is born with a genetic disease be allowed to sue their parents for failing to have a genetic test for the disease that is causing the child so much "misery;" if a gene test exists? That is, sue for wrongful life liability?
 - a. Yes **6%** **7%**
 - b. No **94%** **89%**
 - No Answer** **0%** **4%**
6. Should the government regulate gene therapy – that is, altering genes to cure or prevent genetic diseases – by passing specific legislation at the state and/or federal levels?
 - a. Yes **69%** **44%**
 - b. No **31%** **52%**
 - No Answer** **0%** **4%**
7. Should the state and/or federal government regulate funding for stem cell research?
 - a. Yes **47%** **56%**
 - b. No **53%** **44%**
8. Should the state and/or federal government ban the cloning of human beings?
 - a. Yes **44%** **22%**

- b. No **53%** **78%**
No answer 3% **0%**
9. Should cloning of human embryos be permitted in order to obtain patient-specific stem cells to cure diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's, and muscular dystrophy?
- a. Yes **84%** **96%**
b. No **16%** **4%**
10. Should insurance companies have access to your genetic records or DNA fingerprints without your permission?
- a. Yes **0%** **0%**
b. No **100%** **100%**
11. Should every individual who is arrested for a crime is required to have his or her DNA fingerprinted and deposited in a National Criminal DNA database (CODIS)?
- a. Yes **75%** **44%**
b. No **25%** **56%**
12. Should the government regulate the engineering of animals and plants for use in agriculture and/or medicine?
- a. Yes **72%** **63%**
b. No **28%** **37%**
13. Should employers be able to obtain access to employees' genetic records and/or DNA fingerprints without permission?
- a. Yes **3%** **0%**
b. No **97%** **100%**
14. Should employers be allowed to require their employees to undergo DNA testing?
- a. Yes **16%** **15%**
b. No **81%** **85%**
No answer 3% **0%**
15. Should the police be allowed to collect DNA information gathered from suspected criminals as they currently do with fingerprints?
- a. Yes **81%** **59%**
b. No **19%** **37%**
No Answer 0% **4%**
16. Would you eat food obtained from genetically modified plants and animals?
- a. Good Idea **72%** **96%**
b. Bad Idea **22%** **0%**
No answer 6% **4%**
17. If parents choose to give birth to a child with a genetic disease, should the parents or society pay for the health care for their child?
- a. Parents **69%** **63%**
b. Society **19%** **22%**
No answer 6% **4%**
Choose both 6% **11%**
18. Over the past 35 years how many genetic engineering "disasters" have occurred that you are aware of?
- a. 100 **0%** **0%**
b. 0 **69%** **59%**

- c. 10 **28%** **37%**
No answer 3% **4%**
19. If you could undergo gene therapy and change any of your genetic traits (e.g., eye color, hair color, skin color, presence/absence of body hair, etc.) without any adverse affects, would you do it?
- a. Yes **47%** **44%**
b. No **53%** **56%**
20. Should genetically modified foods be labeled?
- a. Yes **97%** **7%**
b. No **3%** **93%**
21. How many years ago were genes discovered?
- a. 50 **56%** **59%**
b. 150 **38%** **37%**
c. 10 **0%** **4%**
No answer 6% **0%**
22. Would you allow yourself to be vaccinated with a genetically engineered vaccine in order to make you immune from common flu viruses?
- a. Yes **87%** **100%**
b. No **13%** **0%**
23. Is organically grown food more nutritious than food grown using conventional agriculture?
- a. Yes **38%** **0%**
b. No **56%** **100%**
No answer 6% **0%**
24. Should research involving genetic engineering techniques be carried out to combat lethal pathogens that could be used as bioweapons?
- a. Yes **81%** **89%**
b. No **16%** **7%**
No answer 3% **4%**
25. Have you tasted any foods that were produced by genetic engineering within the last week?
- a. Yes **56%** **100%**
b. No **38%** **0%**
No answer 6% **0%**
26. Should publication of research that could be used potentially to engineer bioweapons be prohibited (i.e., censored) by the government?
- a. Yes **41%** **30%**
b. No **56%** **70%**
No answer 3% **0%**
27. Are you a science or a non-science major?
- a. Science **38%** **33%**
b. Non-Science **56%** **56%**
No answer 6% **7%**
Choose both (double major) 0% **4%**
28. Have you ever had an exciting science class that made you think that “science is, fascinating and important for society”?

- a. Yes **78%** **93%**
- b. No **19%** **7%**
- No answer** **3%** **0%**

29. How many hours do you spend on the computer each week?

- a. 0 hrs. **0%** **0%**
- b. 1-3 hrs. **3%** **7%**
- c. 4-7 hrs. **22%** **15%**
- d. 7-10 hrs. **25%** **26%**
- e. 10+ hrs. **50%** **52%**

30. How many hours to you spend listening to, watching, or reading the news a week?

- a. 0 hrs. **3%** **4%**
- b. 1-5 hrs. **78%** **63%**
- c. 5-15 hrs. **19%** **33%**