

This response was submitted to the call for evidence by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *Emerging techniques to prevent inherited mitochondrial disorders: ethical issues* between January 2012 and February 2012. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

**P. J. Egerton**

I CONSIDER THAT GENETIC RESEARCH WORK SUCH AS THIS, SHOULD BE PERMISSIBLE, BECAUSE IT HAS A DEFINED AND SPECIFIC PURPOSE. THE OUTCOME OF THIS PROJECT MAY SAVE NOT ONLY THE LIVES OF CHILDREN BUT ALSO AVOID MUCH SUFFERING AND ANXIETY FOR BOTH SUFFERERS AND FAMILIES. IT DOES POSE ETHICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT PRESENT AND FUTURE GENETIC INHERITANCE, FOR INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR OFFSPRING. THESE ISSUES WILL HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED SERIOUSLY BUT SHOULD NOT IMPED THE RESEARCH PROJECT. THE GENETIC IMPLICATIONS MAY BE NO WORSE THAN THE CURRENT SITUATION OF DEFECTIVE GENETIC INHERITANCE. THE EMOTIONAL/PERSONAL ISSUES OF DONOR AND CHILD CLEARLY ARE MORE PROFOUND THAN SURROGACY (FOR EXAMPLE) BUT WILL HAVE SOME OF THE SAME MORAL AND PERSONAL CONFLICTS, WHICH ARE CAPABLE OF BEING RESOLVED. THERE MAY BE ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED HOWEVER RELATING TO:

- THE NEED FOR DONORS TO BE SELECTED FROM DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC AREAS TO AVOID LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS
- THE QUESTION OF MIXING DIFFERENT RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUPS
- THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE DONOR.