

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.

Dear Sir

Re Preventing transmission of inherited mitochondrial disorders.

I am an ordinary bloke of average intelligence getting on with my life to the best of my ability, what makes me different is that I have a mitochondrial disorder that causes me many difficulties in my everyday life.

I do not have any ethical problems with the research regarding IVF and donor eggs. The human race has the ability to solve problems and this is simply solving a problem that has such a beneficial effect.

What I would say to any person who opposed this research on ethical beliefs is two fold :-

1. Would you accept an organ donation if for instance you needed a new heart, lung, kidney etc. The difference in this one - nobody dies.
2. Have you ever been inoculated against a disease such as measles, mumps or rubella. I see this research as a form of inoculation against mitochondrial disease.

I believe the working group is seeking evidence for a number
to

of questions.

Relationship of Donor to child - organ donors mostly have no relationship to the person receiving, in the case of where a person has died to donate an organ it is reported that relatives find comfort in the fact that a part of their relative lives on, I am sure that egg donors would feel the same.

Informing a child born of this technique - I personally have no problem informing the child but it would be up to the parent.

Treatment unavailable in the UK - Most certainly YES why should any couple be denied a child just because some person or committee doesn't like the idea of this research.

I hope this has been useful, I have tried to keep it as formally structured as I can but this is a very personal thing.

Regards

Peter Baker,