

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.

**Rachel Dolan**

1. What is the relationship of the mitochondrial donor to a child born using these techniques?

a. It is difficult to make an impartial response but based on the limited knowledge I have, I feel that a mitochondrial donor has no relationship to a child born using these techniques. When my mother needed a blood transfusion to survive, I did not suddenly think that this blood was from somebody else and hence part of my mother. In the same way when I give blood, I do not feel I have a "relationship" with the person who receives the blood. I understand that it is not quite as simplistic as this analogy but this is the nearest I have to go on.

2. Would you inform a child born using these techniques?

a. Yes, I think it is important to be honest in an open environment. All children are unique and this makes them even more special.

3. What would happen if this treatment was not available in the UK - would you travel for treatment?

a. Yes absolutely