

Who Owns Your Body? <http://www.whoownsyourbody.org/genepatents.html>  
**NOBEL LAUREATE OPPOSES GENE PATENTS**

Dr. John E. Sulston, the winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Medicine, has come out strongly against gene patents because they slow the pace of scientific advance.



Dr. John Sulston

Sulston was a principal player in the Human Genome Project to decode the human genome. "I was amazed at the tacit acceptance by some that this information could and should be privatized," he said. "The product was not an invention: a genome sequence is a clear-cut case of public domain material." Since that first brush, Sulston has seen the negative impact patents can have on research. [\[ Read More \]](#)

**1. Research Without Patient Consent (Who Owns Your Body) 2007.**

Can scientists do genetic research on your tissues without your consent? That's the essential question in a lawsuit pending before Judge Janet E. Barton of the Maricopa County Superior Court in Arizona. Members of the Havasupai Tribe allege that researchers from Arizona State University (ASU) and the University of Arizona collected 400 blood samples from tribal members for diabetes research, but that those same samples were used for additional unauthorized research on schizophrenia, inbreeding, and population migration. The tribe asserts that research on schizophrenia and inbreeding stigmatizes them and that they would not have authorized any migration research because it conflicts with their religious origin story.

2. John Moore and Hairy Cell Leukemia: Think about John Moore and the patent that had been filed without his consent on his cells called "Mo" (page 201). How do you feel about the Supreme Court of California ruling that states when tissues are removed from your body, with or without your consent, any claim you might have had to owning them vanishes?

3. Research the Prometheus Case and the ACLU case on BRCA patents? Start with google and key words gene patent lawsuits. <http://www.aclu.org/free-speech-womens-rights/aclu-challenges-patents-breast-cancer-genes-0>

what are your feelings about patenting genes?

Is this a potential threat to gaining more scientific knowledge?

What are some pros and cons in favor of patents?

What do you predict will be the outcome in the next few years and resulting change in the medical field?

How important is educating American about genes, disease, stem cells or do we leave this knowledge up to the doctors? Explain

The couple's second child is born through genetic engineering with perfect health, a high IQ and a long life-span.

The first born, Vincent, has swimming contests with his brother Anton to prove self determination over science. Vincent wins.

Exchanging blood

1. Previously you read the Nuremberg Code. <http://ohsr.od.nih.gov/guidelines/nuremberg.html>. Is this code applicable in today's modern medical environment or does it need revising. Explain. What improvements would you suggest and why?

2. Define in your own words the term Informed consent. Is the Helsinki document needed in addition to the Nuremberg Code? Why or why not? Does it allow too much freedom to practitioners? Does it allow for more gains by the scientific community than under the Nuremberg Code?

3. What does GINA stand for? Do you think this act protects Americans from discrimination in the present medical climate? Is there a real threat for discrimination? Do you have any evidence to support this? Think of the movie GATTACCA from Biology. Do you think this is a real possibility? Should we be screening people for medical risks? Why? What are the benefits and cons? Can we find a fair middle ground? Explain.

**GINA: Legislative History** (National Human Genome Research Institute)

The President has signed into law the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) that will protect Americans against discrimination based on their genetic information when it comes to health insurance and employment. The bill had passed the Senate unanimously and the House by a vote of 414 to 1. The long-awaited measure, which has been debated in Congress for 13 years, will pave the way for people to take full advantage of the promise of personalized medicine without fear of discrimination.