

# NEWS

## Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing

Co-hosted by The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong | The Royal Society  
U.S. National Academy of Sciences | U.S. National Academy of Medicine

Oct. 23, 2018

### Updated Agenda Now Available for Nov. 27-29 Second International Human Genome Editing Summit in Hong Kong

HONG KONG -- The [full agenda](#) is now available for the [Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing](#), which will take place Nov. 27-29 in Hong Kong. The three-day summit will be co-hosted by the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong, the Royal Society of London, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and the U.S. National Academy of Medicine. The summit will be held in the Grand Hall of the Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre at the University of Hong Kong. Seating is limited; reporters [must register in advance](#) to attend (details below).

The science of human genome editing has advanced rapidly since the [first international summit](#) was held in 2015 in Washington, D.C. An explosion of new research is employing CRISPR/Cas9 and other powerful, precise editing tools, and clinical trials are imminent for applications to treat serious diseases. However, questions remain concerning the science, application, ethics, and governance of human genome editing. Of particular concern is the possibility of genome editing that might lead to heritable alterations, and its application for purposes other than to treat diseases or disabilities.

The Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing will gather a broad range of stakeholders -- including researchers, ethicists, policymakers, clinicians, patient and disability groups, and representatives from science and medical academies and organizations worldwide -- to engage in discussions. Sessions will include:

#### Day one:

- an overview of human genes, genomes, and genetic variation;
- societal and philosophical issues raised by genetic manipulation;
- the current state of the science, particularly since the 2015 summit; and
- governmental actions and advisory opinions to date regarding human genome editing.

#### Day two:

- pathways for translating current research into clinical applications;
- case studies on basic and translational research involving blood disorders, muscular dystrophy, and liver metabolic disease;
- human embryo editing; and
- research ethics for human genome editing.

#### Day three:

- global perspectives on heritable and nonheritable genome editing applications;
- principles to guide future research and applications;
- efforts to engage the public; and
- final remarks from the summit organizing committee.

In addition, breakout sessions immediately following the summit will further explore industry perspectives on nonheritable human genome editing and issues surrounding human embryo research, while an event in the evening will consider public opinions about human genome editing.

Summit speakers and participants will represent a broad array of nations, disciplines, and interests. The summit agenda was developed by an international, multidisciplinary [program committee](#), which includes representatives from eight nations. The committee is chaired by Nobel laureate David Baltimore, president emeritus and Robert Andrews Millikan Professor of Biology, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

Follow the conversation on Twitter using **#GeneEditSummit**.

**DETAILS:**

The summit will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. HKT Nov. 27; 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. HKT Nov 28; and 8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. HKT Nov. 29 in the Grand Hall, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong. Those who cannot attend may [watch a live webcast](#) of the summit.

Seating is limited; reporters who wish to attend **MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE** [here](#). To view the [full agenda](#) or for more information, visit the Second International Summit's [website](#) or contact:

**Terence Chan**

Secretary General  
The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong  
[terencechan@ashk.org.hk](mailto:terencechan@ashk.org.hk)  
+852 3543 5915

**Danielle Haddad/Bronwyn Friedlander**

Press Office  
The Royal Society  
[press@royalsociety.org](mailto:press@royalsociety.org)  
+44 (0)207 451 2508/2514

**Molly Galvin**

Office of News and Public Information  
U.S. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine  
[news@nas.edu](mailto:news@nas.edu)  
+1 202 334 2138