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| **Jihad Report** **Apr 21, 2018 -** **Apr 27, 2018** | |
| Attacks | **35** |
| Killed | **238** |
| Injured | **279** |
| Suicide Blasts | **4** |
| Countries | **10** |

**The Leadership of the Deep State**

The guilty note that Susan Rice wrote to herself after Trump’s inauguration takes on more and more meaning as the shocking details of Obamagate come into focus. The Obama administration’s decision to spy on the Trump campaign was not, in her words, “by the book” but scandalously irregular. It turns out, according to Congressman Devin Nunes, that not even a semblance of “official intelligence” justified the spying. It was the probe from nowhere to nowhere, undertaken simply to satisfy the partisan hunches of John Brennan and other Trump haters in the Obama administration.

“The counterintelligence investigation uses the tools of our intelligence services that are not supposed to be used on American citizens. So, we’ve long wanted to know, well, what intelligence did you have that actually led to this investigation? So, what we found now after the investigators have reviewed it is that in fact, there was no intelligence,” Nunes told Fox News last weekend.

The probe didn’t start “by the book.” It started largely on the say-so of John Brennan, whose CIA operated like a branch office of the Hillary campaign. We know from Brennan’s own testimony and leaks that he had been lobbying the FBI to start the probe since at least the spring of 2016. But whatever alleged intelligence Brennan gave to the FBI, it was too flaky for the FBI to commit to print.

The probe was the product of a shell game played by a cast of Trump haters — from Brennan to Peter Strzok (the FBI’s liaison to the CIA, which is a key fact in all of this) to Hillary hired gun Christopher Steele. Brennan, since at least April of 2016, had been shaking foreign intelligence agencies down for any dirt on Trumpworld. He claimed that he had come up with some from Estonia, England, and other trusted “counterparts” and shoveled it to Strzok, who then dumped it on the desk of other Hillary partisans in the FBI/Justice Department’s senior leadership. Strzok would later confess to his mistress, in between calling Trump a “douche,” that the probe was just a fishing expedition with no “big there there.”

Brennan’s bumptiousness was so great in pushing and publicizing this bogus probe that even Harry Reid would remark upon it to David Corn and Michael Isikoff. Brennan had an “ulterior motive” in leaking the existence of the probe to him, Reid told the authors. The very thought of Donald Trump as president made Brennan see red and caused him to lose all judgment.

Out of embarrassment at having started a counterintelligence probe on the hunch of such an unhinged Hillary partisan, the FBI has scrambled to find a better reason for launching it and thought it had found one in the George Papadopoulos yarn. But that one just gets weirder and weirder. [According to the *Daily Caller*](http://dailycaller.com/2018/04/22/george-papadopoulos-trump-collusion/), Alexander Downer, the Aussie diplomat who partied with Papadopoulos and claims the Trump volunteer made an incriminating remark, had sought out the meeting, making it look like entrapment. Downer is known for greasing the wheels of the Clinton Foundation and belongs to the jet set of international busybodies up in arms over Trump. But whatever he squeezed out of Papadopoulos, it wasn’t specific or weighty enough to include in the originating document for the probe, according to Nunes.

The Papadopoulos leak was the FBI’s attempt to divert attention from its absurd reliance on Brennan and Christopher Steele. The FBI doesn’t want to have to admit that it harassed a presidential campaign on the basis of opposition research Hillary Clinton financed, at the prodding of a CIA director in the tank for her. To make matters worse, Brennan’s alleged intelligence from the British on Trump-Russia collusion was just laundered Steele opposition research for Hillary (Steele had been feeding his work to British spies, who contacted Brennan). At the center of almost all the streams of phony intelligence flowing into the FBI was Steele. Through his relationship with the FBI, he served as a direct stream of bad intelligence. Through foreign intelligence agencies, he became an indirect stream of bad intelligence (with anything he gave those agencies re-routed to the FBI through Brennan). He also served as a conduit for opposition research from Hillary partisans at or connected to the State Department (Cody Shearer, a Hillary hatchet man, passed his opposition research through John Kerry aide Jonathan Winer to Steele, who then fed it back to the FBI).

It is no wonder why the originating document for the probe is so cryptic. It was a probe of, by, and for Hillary partisans, who, out of a toxic combination of Trump hatred and blinding liberal entitlement, had long ago thrown away the book.

Obama, Clinton, Brennan and other Obama loyalists at CIA, FBI, the White House, and God knows where else, violated the law in an attempt to overthrow the US government. The guilty need to be prosecuted and locked up. They weren't doing their job of protecting Americans, they were spying on them and conspiring to maintain an illegal dictatorship over us. And stop calling the planted lies as "opposition research." There was no "research" because no facts were involved. The entire story against Trump was fraudulent. There is no scandal in America's history that comes close to the deadly-serious illegality as the Obama coup attempt. Lock them Up. Drain the Swamp.

**Obama Ends Pizza in Two Weeks**

[Former President Obama](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/Barack-Obama/), bowing to his wife’s desire to [harass](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/on-pizza-regulations-trump-slices-differently-than-his-own-fda-commissioner) businesses and bully individuals into ‘eating better,’ took a number of steps against restaurants, forcing them to do things like display calorie contents on menus and in-store displays. Many restaurants hated this, because it took up valuable sign space and it was an expensive and pointless hassle.

[President Donald Trump](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/Donald-Trump/) rightly condemned these absurd regulations that the Obama administration attempted to impose on the various restaurants around the nation. However, the current commissioner of the [Food and Drug Administration](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/food-and-drug-administration), [Scott Gottlieb](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/Scott-Gottlieb/), does not seem to share the same sensibility, and now [Gottlieb](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/Scott-Gottlieb/) is set to push the Obama-era regulation to menus across the country.

Unless something is done, the regulation will take effect on May 7, less than two weeks away.

The regulation, a menu-labeling rule, would require that all restaurants with 20 or more locations in the United States have to post in-store menu boards, and on those boards they must list the caloric content of every item sold.

But one type of restaurant, in particular will suffer the most from these new rules: pizza restaurants.

Just think about the menu at your favorite local pizza chain, whether you enjoy [Papa John’s](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/Papa-Johns/), Domino’s, [Pizza Hut](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/Pizza-Hut/), [Donato’s](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/Donatos-Pizza/), or some other chain. Think about the number of toppings on the menu.

Using [Domino’s pizza](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/Domino's-Pizza/) as an example, the menu lists everything from the classic pepperoni to the more strange feta cheese as possible toppings.

They have pizzas for sale in four different sizes, and with three different crust types. Already, that’s twelve separate variations of pizza, without adding the sauces or the toppings.

Domino’s [offers](https://conservativedailypost.com/fda-declares-kratom-an-opioid/) FIVE separate pizza sauces, and allows customers to choose to have them lightly, normally, or heavily applied to their pizza. So, without adding toppings, that adds up to 180 different pizza configurations.

They offer FIVE different cheese configurations, ranging from ‘none’ to ‘double.’ That means that before adding regular toppings to the pizza, there are 900 different combinations to take into account.

[Domino’s](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/Domino's-Pizza/) has, right now, 21 different toppings on its menu, and will allow a customer to load as many as six different meats, cheeses, and vegetables on a pizza.

The pizza chain boasts 34,000,000 different pizza combinations at their shops.

Thankfully, the law does not say that the owner of a pizza shop has to calculate the caloric value of every single possible pizza combination (although originally, the Obama administration regulation was set to do just that).

Instead, the business must calculate the caloric information for each topping, and likely for each size pizza, plus the caloric information for the crusts and sauces that go on the pizza.

According to one owner, the new regulation will require him to spend at least $5,000, every year, to add that information to his menu boards.

And, of course, if the menu changes, he will have to change his boards again, or else risk being in violation of the [FDA](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/food-and-drug-administration) regulation.

But even worse, the regulation carries an additional threat.

Any business (and its employees) who violate the regulation, or perhaps serve food with just a bit too much sauce or cheese and therefore end up outside of the listed caloric content, are open to criminal and civil penalties, as well as a $100,000 fine.

So, if someone making a pizza gets overly-generous with the cheese, they could be headed to prison, and the shop could face a $100,000 fine.

In defense of every large food chain in the country, they have a point. There is a nearly ENDLESS number of ways in which people customize their food, from asking for additional sauce to asking for substitutions on burgers to asking for extra portions on sandwiches and pizzas.

Furthermore, most every food chain in the country makes their nutritional information freely available, and has done so for decades. Customers who are hoping to find a ‘low calorie’ option on the menu at their local [McDonald’s](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/McDonalds/) need only look at the nutritional information pamphlet that each store carries.

In other words, there is literally no need for this regulation, and it seems designed entirely to harass business owners.

The house TWICE passed an [alternative](https://conservativedailypost.com/ucla-performs-brain-manipulation-new-treatment-fda-approved-to-alter-thought-pattern/) to this regulation, known as [The Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/The-Common-Sense-Nutrition-Disclosure-Act/), which would allow businesses to use the power of the internet to provide information for those looking for nutritional information when at a restaurant.

**NY Judge Protects Bar Owner’s Rights**

A judge in [Manhattan](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/manhattan/), [New York](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/new-york/) ruled on Wednesday that there is nothing “outrageous” about kicking the president’s supporters out of bars, according to the [New York Post](https://nypost.com/2018/04/25/judge-bars-are-allowed-to-throw-out-trump-supporters/). While some view this as another hit job against supporters of President Donald Trump, it’s actually a very big win for freedom.

In January, [Greg Piatek](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/greg-piatek/) was reportedly refused service at [The Happiest Hour](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/the-happiest-hour/) bar for wearing a “Make America Great Again” hat. In his lawsuit, he claims that he was singled out for being a conservative, which violated his rights.

“Anyone who supports Trump — or believes in what you believe — is not welcome here! And you need to leave right now because we won’t serve you!” Piatek claims the bar staff told him.

Piatek’s attorney, [Paul Liggieri](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/paul-liggieri/), successfully argued the case all the way to the[Manhattan Supreme Court](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/manhattan-supreme-court/), stating the incident offended his client’s overall sense of being a patriotic American.

That’s a fair argument. However, the bar’s lawyer, [Elizabeth Conway](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/elizabeth-conway/), countered by saying only religious, not political, beliefs are protected under state and city discrimination laws. She argued supporting Trump isn’t a religion, and thereby not protected under New York law.

On Wednesday, [Justice David Cohen](https://conservativedailypost.com/tag/david-cohen/) ruled in favor of the bar, saying Piatek’s MAGA hat wasn’t protected under state or city laws given that supporting the president doesn’t violate any faith-based principles.

On the surface, the ruling has upset many. It comes across as another court ruling against a Trump supporter by a politically-motivated judge who doesn’t care about conservatives being discriminated against.

But the truth is that the judge is correct: privately-owned businesses should have every right to refuse service to anyone. This also means the rule should apply when it goes against liberals.

If a business owner doesn’t want to bake a cake for a gay couple because of religious beliefs, that person should have every right to serve whoever they choose. Whether they lose or gain business is irrelevant — it’s about ensuring freedom of rights.

A bar should be able to refuse service to a guy wearing a Trump hat just like a bakery should be able to [cite religious beliefs](https://conservativedailypost.com/first-amendment-considered-discriminatory-in-protecting-religious-liberties/) for refusing service to a gay couple

**Q-Notes**

From 2001 to 2005 there was an ongoing investigation into the Clinton Foundation.

A Grand Jury had been empaneled.

Governments from around the world had donated to the “Charity”.

Yet, from 2001 to 2003 none of those “Donations” to the Clinton Foundation were declared.

Hmmm, now you would think that an honest investigator would be able to figure this out.

Guess who took over this investigation in 2002?

Bet you can’t guess.

No other than James “Wassup Homey” Comey.

Now, that’s interesting, isn’t it?

Guess who was transferred in to the Internal Revenue Service to run the Tax Exemption Branch of the IRS?

Your friend and mine, our favorite person in the whole world if you are a Tea Party Member, Pro-Life or a True the Vote supporter……. ding, ding, ding, ding Lois “Be on The Look Out” (BOLO) Lerner.

Now, that’s interesting, isn’t it?

It gets better, well not really, but I am sure this is all just a series of strange coincidences, right?

Guess who ran the Tax Division inside the Department of Injustice from 2001 to 2005?

No other than the Assistant Attorney General of the United States, Rod Rosenstein.

Now, that’s interesting, isn’t it?

Guess who was the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation during this timeframe???

I know, it’s a miracle, just a coincidence, just an anomaly in statistics and chances, Robert Mueller.

What do all four casting characters have in common?

They all were briefed and/or were front line investigators into the Clinton Foundation Investigation.

Now that’s just a coincidence, right?

Ok, lets chalk the last one up to mere chance.

Let’s fast forward to 2009, shall we?

James “Wassup Homey” Comey leaves the Justice Department to go and cash-in at Lockheed Martin.

Hillary Clinton is running the State Department, on her own personal email server by the way.

The Uranium One “issue” comes to the attention of the Hildabeast.

Like all good public servants do, you know looking out for America’s best interest, she decides to support the decision and approve the sale of 20% of US Uranium to no other than, the Russians.

Now you would think that this is a fairly straight up deal, except it wasn’t, the People got absolutely nothing out of it.

However, prior to the sales approval, no other than Arkansas Bill goes to Moscow, gets paid 500K for a one hour speech then meets with Vladimir Putin at his home for a few hours.

Ok, no big deal right?

Well, not so fast, the FBI had a mole inside the money laundering and bribery scheme.

Guess who was the FBI Director during this timeframe?

Yep, Robert Mueller.

He even delivered a Uranium Sample to Moscow in 2009.

Guess who was handling that case within the Justice Department out of the US Attorney’s Office in Maryland.

No other than, Rod Rosenstein.

Guess what happened to the informant?

The Department of Justice placed a GAG order on him and threatened to lock him up if he spoke out about it.

Interesting, huh?

PART 2 of 2

>>1204992How does 20% of the most strategic asset of the United States of America end up in Russian hands when the FBI has an informant, a mole providing inside information to the FBI on the criminal enterprise?

Guess what happened soon after the sale was approved?

~145 million dollars in “donations” made their way into the Clinton Foundation from entities directly connected to the Uranium One deal.

Guess who was still at the Internal Revenue Service working the Charitable Division?

No other than, Lois “BOLO” Lerner.

Interesting, huh?

Ok, that’s all just another series of coincidences, nothing to see here, right?

Let’s fast forward to 2015.

Due to a series of tragic events in Benghazi and after the 9 “investigations” the House, Senate and at State Department, Trey Gowdy who was running the 10th investigation as Chairman of the Select Committee on Benghazi discovers that the Hildabeast ran the State Department on a unclassified, unauthorized, outlaw personal email server.

He also discovered that none of those emails had been turned over when she departed her “Public Service” as Secretary of State which was required by law.

He also discovered that there was Top Secret information contained within her personally archived email.

I will spare you the State Departments cover up, the nostrums they floated, the delay tactics that were employed and the outright lies that were spewed forth from the necks of the Kerry State Department, we shall leave it with this…… they did everything humanly possible to cover for the Hildabeast.

Now this is amazing, guess who became FBI Director in 2013?

Guess who secured 17 no bid contracts for his employer with the State Department and was rewarded with a six million dollar thank you present when he departed his employer.

No other than James “Wassup Homey” Comey.

Amazing how all those no-bids just went right through at State, huh?

Now he is the FBI Director in charge of the “Clinton Email Investigation” after of course his FBI Investigates the Lois Lerner “Matter” at the Internal Revenue Service and exonerates her.

Nope couldn’t find any crimes there.

Can you guess what happened next?

In April 2016, James “Wassup Homey” Comey drafts an exoneration letter of Hillary Rodham Clinton, meanwhile the DOJ is handing out immunity deals like candy.

They didn’t even convene a Grand Jury.

Like a lightning bolt of statistical impossibility, like a miracle from God himself, like the true “Gangsta” Homey is, James steps out into the cameras of an awaiting press conference on July the 8th of 2016, and exonerates the Hildabeast from any wrongdoing.

Can you see the pattern?

I could go on, Rosenstein becomes Asst. Attorney General, Comey gets fired based upon a letter by Rosenstein, Comey leaks government information to the press, Mueller is assigned to the Russian Investigation sham by Rosenstein to provide cover for decades of malfeasance within the FBI and DOJ and the story continues.

FISA Abuse, political espionage….. pick a crime, any crime, chances are…… this group and a few others did it.

All the same players.

All compromised and conflicted.

All working fervently to NOT go to jail themselves.

All connected in one way or another to the Clinton's.

They are like battery acid, they corrode and corrupt everything they touch.

How many lives have these two destroyed?

It cannot be numbered.

Incest, it’s Incestuous

As of this writing, the Clinton Foundation, in its 20+ years of operation of being the largest International Charity Fraud in the history of mankind, has never been audited by the Internal Revenue Service.

**The Power of the Globalist Elites**

What person has the power to command thousand of people to leave their homes and walk two thousand miles with no food or water and throw themselves like cannon fodder against Donald Trump’s wall? But leave they did. And walk they did. And starve and fall victim to rapists and bandits they did. Why? Because Alta-California is at risk of falling to the invasion.

Trump said, they shall not pass. But assault the wall they are.  U.S. immigration lawyers are telling Central Americans in a caravan of asylum-seekers that traveled through Mexico to the border with San Diego that they face possible separation from their children and detention for many months. They say they want to prepare them for the worst possible outcome.

“We are the bearers of horrible news,” Los Angeles lawyer Nora Phillips said during a break from legal workshops for the migrants at three Tijuana locations where about 20 lawyers gave free information and advice. “That’s what good attorneys are for.”

The Central Americans, many traveling as families, on Sunday will test the Trump administration’s tough rhetoric criticizing the caravan when the migrants begin seeking asylum by turning themselves in to border inspectors at San Diego’s San Ysidro border crossing, the nation’s busiest.

President Donald Trump and members of his Cabinet have been tracking the caravan, calling it a threat to the U.S. since it started March 25 in the Mexican city of Tapachula, near the Guatemala border. They have promised a stern, swift response.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions called the caravan “a deliberate attempt to undermine our laws and overwhelm our system,” pledging to send more immigration judges to the border to resolve cases if needed.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said asylum claims will be resolved “efficiently and expeditiously” but said the asylum-seekers should seek it in the first safe country they reach, including Mexico.

Any asylum seekers making false claims to U.S. authorities could be prosecuted as could anyone who assists or coaches immigrants on making false claims, Nielsen said. Administration officials and their allies claim asylum fraud is growing and that many who seek it are coached on how to do so.

Kenia Elizabeth Avila, 35, appeared shaken after the volunteer attorneys told her Friday that temperatures may be cold in temporary holding cells and that she could be separated from her three children, ages 10, 9 and 4.

But she in said an interview that returning to her native El Salvador would be worse. She fled for reasons she declined to discuss.

“If they’re going to separate us for a few days, that’s better than getting myself killed in my country,” she said.

Since Congress failed to agree on a broad immigration package in February, administration officials have made it a legislative priority to end what they call “legal loopholes” and “catch-and-release” policies that allow asylum-seekers to be released from custody while their claims wind through the courts in cases that can last for year.

The lawyers who went to Tijuana denied coaching any of the roughly 400 people in the caravan who recently arrived in Tijuana, camping out in shelters near some of the city’s seedier bars and bordellos.

Some migrants received one-on-one counseling to assess the merits of their cases and groups of the migrants with their children playing nearby were told how asylum works in the U.S.

Asylum-seekers are typically held up to three days at the border and turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. If they pass an asylum officer’s initial screening, they may be detained or released with ankle monitors.

Nearly 80 percent of asylum-seekers passed the initial screening from October through December, the latest numbers available, but few are likely to eventually win asylum.

Mexicans fared worst among the 10 countries that sent the largest numbers of U.S. asylum seekers from 2012 to 2017, with a denial rate of 88 percent, according to asylum outcome records tracked by Syracuse University’s Transactional Records Action Clearinghouse. El Salvadorans were close behind with a 79 percent denial rate, followed by Hondurans at 78 percent and Guatemalans at 75 percent.

Evelyn Wiese, a San Francisco immigration attorney, said she tried to make migrants more comfortable sharing memories of the dangers they faced in their homelands.

“It’s really scary to tell these experiences to a stranger,” Wiese said after counseling a visibly shaken Guatemalan woman at an art gallery in a building that used to house a drug smuggling tunnel into San Diego. “The next time she tells her story will be easier.”

Nefi Hernandez, who planned to seek asylum with his wife and infant daughter was born on the journey through Mexico, worried he could be kept in custody away from his daughter. But his spirits lifted when he learned he might be released with an ankle bracelet.

Hernandez, 24, said a gang in his hometown of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, threatened to kill him and his family if he did not sell drugs.

Jose Cazares, 31, said he faced death threats in the northern Honduran city of Yoro because a gang member suspected of killing the mother of his children learned one of Cazares’ sons reported the crime to police.

“One can always make up for lost time with a child, but if they kill him, you can’t,” he said outside his dome-shaped tent in a migrant shelter near the imposing U.S. border barriers separating San Diego from Tijuana.

**NASA Cancels Moon Mission**

NASA has cancelled a mission to assay the resources that may be available to humans on the moon, despite President Donald Trump's administration making it a priority to send humans back there, according to media reports.

The Resource Prospector mission would have sent a rover to the moon's polar regions to learn about water and other deposits on and just beneath the lunar surface. Scientists have sent an open letter to [new NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine](https://www.space.com/40385-nasa-administrator-jim-bridenstine-sworn-in.html), urging him not to shut down the agency's only current moon mission, which has already been in development for four years, according to a [report by The Verge](https://www.theverge.com/2018/4/27/17287154/nasa-lunar-surface-robotic-mission-resource-prospector-moon).

Advertisement

The Resource Prospector mission consisted of a lander and a solar-powered rover equipped with a drill. The rover would have scouted the lunar surface, digging up soil for analysis. Scientists know that [water ice exists on the moon](https://www.space.com/16219-moon-water-lunar-ice-photos.html), but the Resource Prospector would have provided scientists with a more complete understanding of these deposits.

Such knowledge is crucial in expanding a human presence on the moon. Lunar ice can potentially be melted and split into oxygen and hydrogen, providing a local source of water, oxygen and rocket propellant, The Verge reported. Not only would this help make human activities more self-sustaining, but it would also dramatically reduce launch costs, because much of these vital resources could be produced on site.

"If we can demonstrate that we can access the water on the moon, then we can start to design the equipment that will mine it and deliver it to the outpost," Phil Metzger, a planetary physicist at University of Central Florida who is part of the science team for Resource Prospector, told The Verge.

NASA’s Resource Prospector rover would have scouted the lunar surface for subsurface water, hydrogen and other volatiles. A drill would have allowed the rover to sample the lunar soil down to a depth of 1 meter.

*Credit: NASA*

Although it was not yet fully funded, the Resource Prospector mission had gotten well past the drawing board. Engineers had been working on the project for four years, and prototypes were tested on Earth in 2015 and 2016, according to The Verge. Plans had the mission launching in 2022. "It's far enough along that it's a real mission," Clive Neal, an engineering professor at the University of Notre Dame and Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG) emeritus chair, told The Verge.

Issues likely started when the mission was transferred from one directorate within NASA to another, according to Metzger. Originally, it was funded with money allocated for human exploration, The Verge reported. However, it was moved to the section that funds scientific missions. Although Resource Prospector was a robotic mission, it didn't fit as well within the Science Mission Directorate's priorities or budget, which is likely why it was canceled, The Verge said.

As for why the mission was moved, "I don't really know what the motive was, but I'm guessing it was probably budget-related," Metzger told The Verge. NASA's human exploration program is currently working on the massive [Space Launch System](https://www.space.com/33908-space-launch-system.html) rocket, which accounts for a sizable portion of the program's budget. Given the recent growth of private launch companies, [a number of people have criticized](https://www.space.com/24628-will-spacex-kill-nasa-sls.html) NASA's decision to continue developing this costly rocket.

Several scientists at LEAG, which advises NASA on lunar exploration, wrote a [letter](http://spaceref.com/news/viewsr.html?pid=51363) to Bridenstine urging him to reevaluate the decision to cancel the mission. In their letter, they explained the mission’s importance in current plans to return humans to the moon and expand the nation's lunar presence overall.

The decision to cancel the Resource Prospector mission is peculiar given the current administration's plans for NASA. Trump has [repeatedly called](https://www.space.com/39079-president-trump-signs-space-policy-directive-1-in-photos.html) for NASA to return humans to the moon and even signed [Space Policy Directive 1](https://www.space.com/39050-trump-directs-nasa-humans-to-moon.html), ordering NASA to return astronauts to the moon ahead of crewed missions to Mars and beyond. As of now, "there are no other [NASA] missions being planned to go to the surface of the moon," Metzger told The Verge.

The Resource Prospector also fit in nicely with the Trump administration’s desire to foster NASA's partnerships with the commercial space industry, as there's been increased interest in lunar exploration from private companies. Several businesses have plans to [send their own spacecraft to the moon](https://www.space.com/39398-moon-rush-private-lunar-landings-future.html), and some would like to set up commercial operations there. The moon could even serve as a space port for longer-distance missions, like those to Mars, The Verge said.

"Of course, it could turn out that the water [on the moon] isn't easily accessible at all, and that could change a lot of plans within the industry," The Verge wrote. The Resource Prospector mission was critical to answering this question.

**Time is An Illusion**

TIME is not real – it is a human construct to help us differentiate between now and our perception of the past, an equally astonishing and baffling theory states.

The concept of time is simply an illusion made up of human memories, everything that has ever been and ever will be is happening RIGHT NOW.

That is the theory according to a group of esteemed physicists who aim to solve one of the universe’s mysteries.

Most people do not even consider the concept of time but there is nothing in the laws of physics to state that it should move in the forward direction that we know.

The laws of physics are symmetric ultimately meaning that time could have easily moved in a backward direction as it does forward.

Indeed some adherents to the ‘big crunch’ theory say time WILL run backwards when the universe stops expanding and starts contracting back in on itself.

This conundrum as to why we interpret time in a forward motion has led scientists to question why.

Inevitably, some have concluded that time is simply human construct.

They argue that there is a ‘block-universe’ where time and space are connected, otherwise known as spacetime.

The theory, which is backed up Einstein’s theory of relativity, states that space and time are part of a four dimensional structure where everything thing that has happened has its own co-ordinates in spacetime.

This would allow everything to be ‘real’ in the sense that the past, and even the future, are still there in spacetime – making everything equally important as the present.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist Max Tegmark, told space.com: "We can portray our reality as either a three-dimensional place where stuff happens over time, or as a four-dimensional place where nothing happens [‘block universe’] — and if it really is the second picture, then change really is an illusion, because there's nothing that's changing; it's all just there — past, present, future.

“We have the illusion, at any given moment, that the past already happened and the future doesn't yet exist, and that things are changing.

“But all I'm ever aware of is my brain state right now. The only reason I feel like I have a past is that my brain contains memories.”

Julian Barbour, a British physicist who has authored several books on the subject of time, describes everything as a series of “nows”.

Dr Barbour told physicist and author Adam Frank in the book ‘About Time: Cosmology and Culture at the Twilight of the Big Bang’: "As we live, we seem to move through a succession of Nows, and the question is, what are they?”

He explains, adding to the spacetime theory where everything has its own place: “You can think of it as a landscape or country. Each point in this country is a Now and I call the country Platonia, because it is timeless and created by perfect mathematical rules.”

He adds that what we perceive as the past is simply an illusion formed in our brain.

Dr Barbour: "The only evidence you have of last week is your memory. But memory comes from a stable structure of neurons in your brain now.

“The only evidence we have of the Earth's past is rocks and fossils. But these are just stable structures in the form of an arrangement of minerals we examine in the present.

“The point is, all we have are these records and you only have them in this Now.”

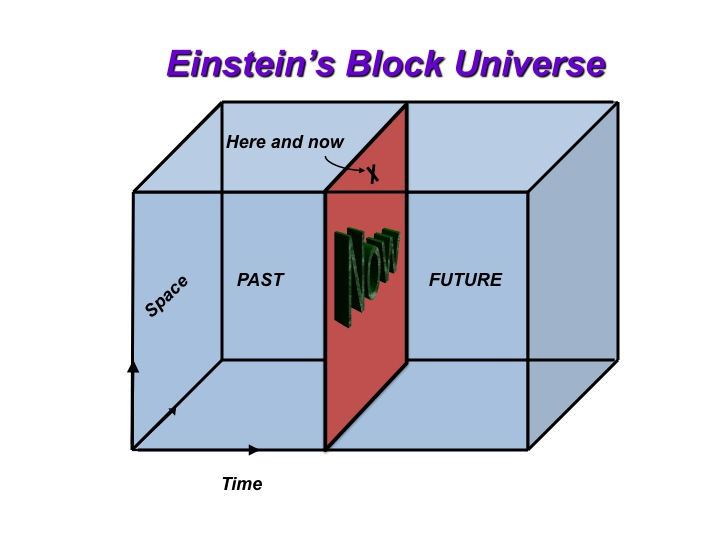
Our daily experience, as well as our predecessors’, regards time as a flowing entity that defines what we conceive to be the past and also what we conceive as the future. **Time is something that is directly linked to our brain’s consciousness abilities**. Our mind records what we have seen in the past and can also retrieve it. In our daily experience, our mind cannot construct what is going to happen in the future. In Newton’s classical mechanics that has been the masterpiece of classical physics since its introduction in 1640, time is defined as an absolute characteristic of the universe, independent from our location. It is regarded as **a straight passage of events that defines past, present and future.**

Later developments

In 1905 and later in 1917, with the introduction of the Einstein’s theories of relativity (special theory of relativity and general theory of relativity), the idea of absoluteness of time received a heavy blow and it was proved that there was no absolute time. Indeed, it was proved that **the time difference between two events totally depends on such parameters as speed, gravitational field at the location of the observer**, and that two simultaneous events for an observer would not be simultaneous for other observers. Quantum Mechanics (QM) went even further and suggested that time is a discrete property and there is no continuous time with the quantum of time being of the order of 10-43s. In this interpretation, **time is still regarded as a reality,** and the statistical interpretation of causality principle within the framework of the Heisenberg’s uncertainty principle is still respected.

However, recent discoveries at the quantum level are now directing us to the idea of the illusion of time and the conclusion that [time actually may not exist](http://www.learning-mind.com/does-time-exist-in-reality-or-is-it-just-an-illusion/) and that it exists only with regards to an arbitrary reference point. In order to make it simple, let us have **a comparison between space and time coordinate.** It is a fact that the notion of left and right is a relative concept that depends on the location of the observer; so the concept of right and left cannot be an absolute property for defining the location of objects. Left and right are relative and not absolute since they may be in the reverse order for another observer looking at the same set of objects.

Generalizing the same concept to the time coordinate as the 4th dimension will lead us to the result that **the past and the future may indeed be reversed for another observer at a different reference point.** This simple comparison can be best described in a picture that is named ***block universe***, which is presented below.



This is the view of the universe by an observer outside of space and time looking from a vantage point at our universe. In this picture past and future are not absolute; rather, they depend on the reference point of the observer. In this theory, the concept of past and future for time are as relative as the concept of right and left for location.

Further developments

In the 1970s, the famous US physicist **John Archibald Wheeler** along with the physicist **Bryce Dewitt,** working on the unification of quantum mechanics and Einstein’s theory of gravitation, developed **an equation in which time as a separate concept had no role.** The theory was a big step towards the elimination of time from the description of the universe. This concept, although seemed weird and led to many controversial debates among physicists, was later developed to its extreme limit by the physicist **Julian Barbour.** According to him, **the time is not real and what we regard as the time is no more than changes that lead to the illusion of time.** This notion of time is in total contradiction with the Newtonian concept of time as a linear and homogenous passage of a river and that of Einstein as the 4th dimension. According to Barbour, **what our mind records are moments that he calls “Nows” and what we perceive as the passage of time is just our move through a succession of “Nows”.** While these may be interpreted by our conscious as the passage of time from the past to the future, they may be interpreted the reverse for another observer in another reference point.

The concept is already quite weird, but Barbour has presented answers to many seemingly unresolved mysteries of his theory. In his theory, events like birth and death are not regarded as a proof for the passage of time; they are rather cycles of energy that our conscious mind perceives as if we are watching a linear passage of time.

**Travel Through Time**

In 1958, Robert Monroe floated out of his body for the first time. It began “without any apparent cause,” [he wrote](https://books.google.com/books?id=A9gVBQAAQBAJ&dq=%22In+1958,+without+any+apparent+cause,+I+began+to+float+out+of+my+physical+body.+It+was+not+voluntary%3B&source=gbs_navlinks_s). His doctor, finding no physical ailment, prescribed tranquilizers. A psychologist friend, meanwhile, told him to try leaving his body again. After all, the friend said, “some of the fellows who practice yoga and those Eastern religions claim they can do it whenever they want to.”

Monroe did try it again—and again and again. He recalls these experiences in his classic 1971 book[*Journeys out of the Body*](https://books.google.com/books?id=YgTyylRNV4oC&source=gbs_navlinks_s), which launched the phrase “out-of-body experiences” into the public conversation. Monroe died in 1995, but the fascination with out-of-body experiences endures. The book Psychology: The Controversial Science also recorded decades of experiments and tests on subjects that showed skills at being able to access time.

Out-of-body experience can vary person to person, but they often involve the sense of floating above one’s actual body and looking down. For neuroscientists, the phenomenon is a puzzle and an opportunity: Understanding how the brain goes awry can also illuminate how it is supposed to work. Neuroscientists now think that out-of-body experiences involve the vestibular system—made up of canals in the inner ear that track a person’s locations in space—and how that information gets integrated with other senses in the brain.

In a recent [study](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010945217301892?via%3Dihub#fig2) from France, [Christophe Lopez](http://lnia.fr/corps-et-cognition/lopez-christophe/), a neuroscientist at Aix-Marseille Université, teamed up with Maya Elzière, a doctor who sees patient with vestibular disorders. Some of these patients complained of dizziness, with physical causes that ranged from fluid leaking out of the inner ear to an infection of a nearby nerve. Of 210 patients who reported dizziness, 14 percent said they have had out-of-body experiences. In contrast, only 5 percent of healthy participants in the study reported such sensations.

Among the patients who had out-of-body experiences, some reported “being attracted by a spiral, like in a tunnel.” Others described “entering my body, like in an envelope, from the top.” Lopez says he thinks the out-of-body sensation is a result of the mismatch between information coming from the damaged vestibular system and the normal visual system.

[Olaf Blanke](http://lnco.epfl.ch/olaf.blanke), a neuroscientist at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, says that the study “puts previous anecdotal suggestions about a strong vestibular component in [out-of-body experiences] on firm grounds.” Blanke, who has worked with Lopez previously but not on the current study, has also shown that electrically stimulating the brain area that integrates vestibular and visual information can [induce an out-of-body illusion](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v419/n6904/full/419269a.html?foxtrotcallback=true). Whether the perturbation is in the inner ear itself or the brain, the end result seems to be the same: a feeling of having defied physics and left one’s body.

But there is still another mystery. While 14 percent of Elzière’s patients experiencing dizziness reported out-of-body experiences, 14 percent is not 100 percent. And healthy people appear to sometimes have such experiences, too. A vestibular disorder alone does not cause people to feel like they’ve left their bodies. “We believe out-of-body experiences might be a combination of several factors,” says Lopez. He also surveyed patients about their mental states, and found that those with anxiety and depression in addition to dizziness were more likely to have out-of-body experiences.

[Jason Braithwaite](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/psychology/people/jason-braithwaite), a psychologist at Lancaster University, has found that people who have other perceptual anomalies—like feeling the unexplained presence of another person or a body part changing shape—are also [more likely to report out-of-body experiences](http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0010945210001486).

The out-of-body experience may have to do with a specific way the brain tries to make sense of a space. One way to explain this, says Braithwaite, is that your brain automatically builds a bird's-eye view of the space around you. Usually, you see things from your own perspective. But when something perturbs the brain and it can’t make sense of different streams of sensory information, this bird’s-eye model of the world may take over.

**Reality of Observation**

Why do I bring this subject up tonight? I had some write me over the last few weeks about my book *Remembering the Future*. Specifically, there was a feeling like they had somehow stepped out of the nest for the first time and taken flight, but had a feeling of fear, so they jumped back into their bodies, so to speak.

So, I thought I would add some of my experience and thoughts about this. It really isn’t fear as much as it is unfamiliar territory. The meditation that I share in the book is called Flower of Life. It was created by a man named Drunvalo Melchizedek. The last name I don’t think is his real name, but rather his brand name. No big deal. He taught me how to breathe, and I taught you how to breathe. In his teachings, he brings you through 17 breaths that will show you the light within you, the doorway to the universe through your heart, and the way to walk through that doorway.

He also leaves open your journey for the 18th breath, which I searched for and found. The most important mechanical thing about the journey is to have an effective and repeatable launch platform once you pass through the doorway. You are basically expanding your senses to reach beyond the limits of distance.

That’s the key word; distance. In the universe, there is no time, per se. There is only distance. We humans measure in terms of time like light years, or astronomical units or lunar distance. We artificially reach out and gather as much light as we can so that we can “see” into the past of the universe. Theoretically, it took all those years for that light to reach Earth, and thus their instruments, and so it is an image of the past. For all these scientists know, those stars may have aged and passed away in real time.

Our consciousness is not actually bound by such limits. That’s why they build the instruments. Because they are driven or urged by the imagination of what they might see. They are genuinely surprised by what they discover, and then they develop hypothesis about that observation, gather more data experimentally, and then prove or disprove those hypotheses.

More often that not, they are disproven. For instance, the velocity of stars orbiting the center of the Milky Way is constant. Yeah. They are. Our Sun is going the same speed as stars in close proximity to the center. That was not what was expected. Not at all. That, of course, means that stars are revolving like super-high cycles, compared to our Sun. But the speed is the same. They are still trying to digest that one.

Now, I have often said that humans are the only sentient beings on Earth who can perceive time. For all other life forms there is only the current location, if there is one. You call it the NOW, but there is no idiosyncratic NOW. Why? Because its location and speed cannot be measured. For we physicists, that means it does not exist. But it does. Why?

Because humans slow down the singularity of the universe to observe distance. That distance does not exist, except under the limitations of being outside the speed of light. Yes, outside the speed of light. The universe exists as a sphere. Time is the measure we use to form distance inside that sphere. We experience entropy every single day as a law of thermodynamics. If any energy set is left to itself, it will eventually fall to the trough of the Hamiltonian of the universe. Like a snowboarder riding the halfpipe in the Olympics. As long as there is the potential energy of the mountain’s slope, he can ride the halfpipe.

That is to say, the observation is mathematical with what we call The **Wheeler–DeWitt equation**[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheeler%E2%80%93DeWitt_equation#cite_note-DeWitt-1) is a field equation. It is part of a theory that attempts to combine mathematically the ideas of [quantum mechanics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_mechanics) and [general relativity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_relativity), a step toward a theory of [quantum gravity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_gravity). In this approach, [time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_in_physics) plays a different role than it does in non-relativistic quantum mechanics, leading to the so-called '[problem of time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Problem_of_time)'.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheeler%E2%80%93DeWitt_equation#cite_note-2) More specifically, the equation describes the quantum version of the [Hamiltonian constraint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamiltonian_constraint) using metric variables.

But, the one unique constraint is that the observer must be outside the universe to make this observation. He must be located in another universe, looking at this universe. The metrics also assume that quantum gravity is the precursor to the stack of variables. That, I believe is the flaw in the basis for this area of quantum physics. In my travels, I have become convinced that consciousness is the precursor to quantum gravity, which starts the cascading of variables to explain the way entropy works in the universe.

Now, this changes things dramatically, because as I said before, energy left to itself will eventually reach a ground state, or the bottom of the trough. Graphically, the Hamiltonian looks like a curved halfpipe. But, in the presence of consciousness, the set of energy is not left to itself. Far from it. We are here. We are constantly pumping information, reflecting information, resonating with information, which transforms energy into more organized conditions. That, earth explorers, means that although entropy is irrefutable, it is countered by our presence. We are the creators of the universe.

When we travel in the universe, we observe it. When we observe it, we are inputting energy into that place we are observing. The definition of space is void with the presence of energy or particles. That is why there is no edge of space. The slope of the curved halfpipe of the universe is being created by us. Constantly, or at least until we stop observing it.

This is what I am trying to teach you to do with the meditation. So, in order to land on your feet, so to speak, while you are astral traveling, I recommend exactly what my teacher taught me. Make a launch platform. For Drunvalo, he had a cave with a fountain inside of it. For me, it is my terrace patio on a world that physically no longer exists. It was consumed in the corona of a red giant star 1,800 years ago. You’ll see in the year 2022 when the light from that event reaches Earth. It will appear in the Cygnus Constellation in the summer triangle. It was not my home world, although I loved it and the beautiful indigenous people there.

So, the first place you must observe is the stepping off place just inside your heart. I can get you to the doorway, but when you step through, the discoveries are up to you. Past, future, here, there it is all there for you.

Now, one of the writers said they panicked because they felt themselves leave their body, right through their chest; actually the heart. That is normal. I would say not to worry, because there is a lump of gray matter at the base of your skull that will maintain your life support system while you are gone. I used to say that with confidence. But one of my friends had a fellow traveler only 38 years of age pass away in Egypt. There was no known cause of death. The last thing anyone heard her say was that she was going to her room to meditate. When she didn’t show for a scheduled dinner with the group, they went to check on her. No amount of resuscitation worked. She was gone. Why? How? No one knows to this very day. The only caution I will give is that you must be drug free and of good health to do this kind of travel. Drugs will throw off your merkaba. Without a stable system, your body may not be ready for your awake mind to leave for a while.

When you learn the breath consciously, like a whale does, you will become master of it until you leave. In the book I teach you how to how to hold onto that conscious part as long as possible in the 18th breath, so that you can focus your pineal sight. Once you get used to it, and stay healthy, you can do it with all the skill you need.

**The Immigrant Song**

Someone with immense power has ordered thousands of people to leave their homes and march thousands of miles without food or water to crash like a human wave against Donald trump’s wall. Who could have the power to make this happen?

Hundreds of Central American migrants demanding asylum at the U.S. border with Mexico Sunday may be poor, but they have support of major foundations, corporations and billionaire George Soros for their well-organized caravan-style invasion.

President Trump has instructed the Department of Homeland Security not to allow the caravan into the U.S. to hear their asylum claims. They are expected to attempt to enter the U.S. Sunday.

The caravan is organized by a group called Pueblo sin Fronteras. But the effort is supported by the coalition CARA Family Detention Pro Bono Project, which includes Catholic Legal Immigration Network, the American Immigration Council, the Refugee and Immigration Center for Education and Legal Services and the American Immigration Lawyers Association – [thus the acronym CARA. At least three of the four groups are funded By George Soros’ Open Society Foundation, WND has confirmed.](http://www.aila.org/practice/pro-bono/find-your-opportunity/cara-family-detention-pro-bono-project)

The CARA coalition was formally announced last week.

Other support groups are funded by the MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation.



Alex Mensing (Twitter)

Alex Mensing is one of the organizers of the Pueblo sin Fronteras group, serving as an official spokesman at the border. While identifying himself as a paralegal at the University of San Francisco’s Immigration and Deportation Defense Law Clinic, [he also works with CARA. He regularly briefs](http://www.facebook.com/CARAProBono/posts/975130762620827%E2%80%9D/)[leftist website and magazine Mother Jones,](http://www.motherjones.com/)[also a major recipient of Soros grants.](http://www.facebook.com/CARAProBono/posts/975130762620827%E2%80%9D/)

Pueblo Sin Fronteras is a member of the National Day Laborer Network, which is affiliated with United for Justice and Peace, Caravan Against Fear and Freedom Road Socialist Organization. The connections run deep between left-wing activism and corporate and foundation sponsorship.

The Democrat Party links are also in strong evidence. Earlier this month, Oregon’s Democratic Governor Kate Brown accepted a contribution to her re-election campaign from Soros – his first direct involvement in that state’s elections. Three days later, Brown announced the Oregon National Guard would not be participating in President Trump’s effort to get the Guard providing border security.

“Kate Brown has consistently ignored problems facing everyday Oregonians and has instead used the office of governor to make herself a national left-wing celebrity,” said Oregon Republican Chairman Bill Currier. “Now, Brown is cashing in and taking big campaign donations from notorious leftist puppet master, billionaire George Soros.”

Soros pledged Sept. 20, 2016, to invest up to $500 million in programs and companies benefiting migrants and refugees “fleeing life-threatening situations.” That’s exactly the case Pueblo sin Fronteras is making.

“We will invest in startups, established companies, social impact initiatives, and businesses started by migrants and refugees,” said in an official statement. “These investments are intended to be successful. But our primary focus is to create products and services that truly benefit migrants and host communities. I hope my commitment will inspire other investors to pursue the same mission.”

A press release dated March 23 by the “Refugee Caravan” made clear the goal is “abolishing borders” as the name Pueblo sin Fronteras (People Without Borders) implies.

The opening statement reads: We are a group of people from different nations, religions, genders, gender expressions and sexual orientations migrating and seeking refuge. We seek to become one collective, supporting each other shoulder to shoulder and demonstrating that by uniting we can abolish borders.”

Some number of people associated with the Central American migrant caravan, which stopped in Tijuana Saturday night, have crossed into the U.S. illegally in the past 24 hours, federal officials said Saturday.

A pregnant woman and some children as young as 4 were detected entering the U.S. through a canyon that authorities described, in a statement, as dark, treacherous and “notorious for human and drug smuggling.”  
They were said to have climbed over a dilapidated scrap metal border fence on either side of the San Ysidro Port of Entry. No information was provided on the number of people caught entering the U.S. illegally or what became of them.

Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen M. Nielsen announced last week her agency was monitoring the situation carefully: “DHS continues to monitor the remnants of the ‘caravan’ of individuals headed to our Southern border with the apparent intention of entering the United States illegally. A sovereign nation that cannot – or worse, chooses not – to defend its borders will soon cease to be a sovereign nation. The Trump Administration is committed to enforcing our immigration laws – whether persons are part of this ‘caravan’ or not. “If members of the ‘caravan’ enter the country illegally, they will be referred for prosecution for illegal entry in accordance with existing law. For those seeking asylum, all individuals may be detained while their claims are adjudicated efficiently and expeditiously, and those found not to have a claim will be promptly removed from the United States.”

Last fall, Soros transferred $18 billion to the Open Society Foundations, the network of non-profits Soros uses to advance his globalist, borderless ideology both in the U.S. and around the world.

The massive transfer, which was first reported by the Wall Street Journal, is roughly equivalent to the gross domestic product of Afghanistan, according to World Bank data. It is seen as a way for the 89-year-old Soros to avoid the estate tax – also known as the death tax – which penalizes large inheritances.

Inside Philanthropy reported in 2016 that Soros, who has said that he considers himself to be “some kind of god,” began laying the groundwork for the foundation to continue his mission after he dies. Hacked Open Society Foundation documents published last summer shed light on the way in which Soros has used his foundation to advance progressive, open-borders policies both domestically and abroad.

In the U.S., his foundation has provided funding for the Black Lives Matter movement and open borders activists. The foundation has also provided funding to anti-Trump “resistance” groups, funded opposition research on critics of radical Islam and attempted to influence Supreme Court rulings.

Soros’ foundation is now the second-largest philanthropic organization in the U.S. behind only the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Earlier this month, Judicial Watch obtained 32 pages of records showing the Obama administration sent U.S. taxpayers’ funds to a group backed by Soros, which used the money to fund left-wing political activities in Albania, including working with the country’s socialist government to push for highly controversial judicial “reform.” The records also detail how the Soros operation helped the State Department review grant applications from other groups for taxpayer funding.

The records were obtained in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development. The new documents show USAID funds were funneled through that agency’s Civil Society Project to back Soros’s left-wing Open Society Foundations in Albania, particularly the Soros operation efforts to give the socialist government greater control of the judiciary. USAID reportedly gave $9 million in 2016 to the “Justice for All” campaign, which is overseen by Soros’s “East West Management Institute.”

Soros is also funding programs to fund the entry of “refugees” into Italy, Hungary and Israel. Now you know why the UN and all the major media spares no expense to film the conflict at these flash points. Soros is dying, but do you really think the globalist elites will stop their efforts to end America and its allies? No. They will not.

Trump is winning the battles, but the war is more dangerous now than at any time in history. The plot is described as closely as I can in the book Charm of Favor. The book has a happy ending. I want this to end as badly as you do, but we all know there is only one way. Victory.

**Asteroid Miners**

Some of Planetary Resources' asteroid-mining tech just passed a major space test.

The Washington-based company's tiny Arkyd-6 satellite has completed all its mission goals in Earth orbit, just three months after [lifting off atop an Indian rocket](https://www.space.com/39363-planetary-resources-asteroid-mining-satellite-launches.html), Planetary Resources representatives said.

"The spacecraft successfully demonstrated its distributed computing system, communications, attitude-control system, power generation and storage with deployable solar arrays and batteries, star tracker and reaction wheels, and the first commercial mid-wave infrared (MWIR) imager operated in space," Planetary Resources President and CEO Chris Lewicki [wrote in an update](https://www.planetaryresources.com/2018/04/mission-success-arkyd-6-tests-key-technologies-for-commercial-space-resource-exploration/)Tuesday (April 24).

The cereal-box-size Arkyd-6 launched on Jan. 12 atop a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, along with several dozen other payloads. The cubesat set up shop in a sun-synchronous polar orbit, where it's been working to prove out technology required for Planetary Resources' next spacecraft, an asteroid prospector known as Arkyd-301.

The MWIR imager is particularly important to Arkyd-301 development and to the company's overall goals. The instrument can detect water, which is what [Planetary Resources](https://www.space.com/15387-asteroid-mining-planetary-resources-gallery.html) will be going after on asteroids, at least at first.

Water can be split into its constituent parts, hydrogen and oxygen, the chief components of rocket fuel. Asteroid mining should therefore lead to the construction and operation of off-Earth propellant depots, which could revolutionize spaceflight and exploration by allowing spaceships to top up their fuel tanks on the go, Planetary Resources representatives and other space-mining advocates have said.ading

If all goes according to plan, the company will launch multiple Arkyd-301 spacecraft atop a single rocket in 2020. Each spacecraft will cruise to a different asteroid, then assess the space rock's resource potential using onboard instruments such as the MWIR imager. The Arkyd-301s will also carry piggyback miniprobes, which will deploy from their motherships and burrow into their target asteroid to get even closer looks at the space rocks

**DNA 3-D Printing**

A company called Cambrian Genomics have developed a way to print millions of synthetic DNA strands at once, to be used in any way you want to.

The machines used by Cambrian Genomics to print DNA are millions of times more efficient than any other machines in the world, according to the company’s founder Austen Heinz, who also explains the process of printing DNA. The first machine adds the chemical building blocks of DNA (Adenine, Guanine, Cytosine and Thymine) onto a collection plate. A second machine assigns a different colour to each chemical, and then uses lasers to analyse the combinations, ignoring those strands that have errors which can cause genetic mutations and diseases, and printing the correct strands.

The company is now developing a way in which customers can tinker with the genetic codes of plants and animals, and even design new genetic sequences and creatures on a computer. After the DNA code for these ‘creatures’ is generated, Cambrian Genomics will print out the DNA and send it to the customer in powder format, to be placed inside a cell.

One way to get the DNA into the human body might be by hijacking viruses, using the virus’ unique abilities to insert the gene into patient’s genome. We go into more depth about this process in an article - ['A Few Good Viruses'](https://cosmosmagazine.com/life-sciences/few-good-viruses).

After successfully raising $10 million in backing last November, the company's founder Austen Heinz claims that his company will allow “anyone in the world that has a few dollars [to] make a creature... that changes the game [and] creates a whole new world”.

Austin Heinz committed suicide in May of 2015, two months after his interview on Reason,tv.

**23 and Me: The search for Captain America (followup)**

The dogs, which are test tube bred in a lab, have twice the muscle mass of their natural counterparts and are considerably stronger and faster.

The canine genome has been especially difficult to engineer and replicate – but its close similarity to the human genome means it has long been the prize of geneticists.

Now the Chinese success has led to fears the same technology could be used to create weaponised super-humans - typifed in Marvel Comics by Captain America and his foes.

David King, director of Human Genetics Alert (HGA), voiced his fears over what is widely viewed as the first step on a slippery slope.

He told express.co.uk: “It’s true that the more and more animals that are genetically engineered using these techniques brings us closer to the possibility of genetic engineering of humans.

“Dogs as a species, in respect of cloning are very difficult, and even more difficult to clone human beings.

“There’s no medical case for it, the scientists are interested in being the first person in the world to create a genetically engineer child.

“They’re interested in science and the technology and their careers. They will continue pushing the regulations for it.

“That does set us on the road to eugenics. I am very concerned with what I’m seeing.”

An army of super-humans has been a staple of science fiction and superhero comics for decades – but the super-dog technology brings it closer to reality.

The Chinese researchers first self-bred cloned dog was named Little Long Long.

The beagle puppy, one of 27, was genetically engineered by ‘deleting’ a gene called myostatin, giving it double the muscle mass of a normal beagle.

The advance genetic editing technology has been touted as a breakthrough which could herald the dawn of ‘superbreeds’, which could be stronger, faster, better at running and hunting.

The Chinese official line is that the dogs could potentially be deployed to frontline service to assist police officers.

Dr Lai Liangxue, researcher at Guangzhou institute of biological medicine and health, said: "This is a breakthrough, marking China as only the second country in the world to independently master dog-somatic clone technology, after South Korea."

Some 65 embryos were ‘edited’, and from that 27 were born, with Little Long Long the only one who was created without the myostatin gene. Myostatin is known to control muscle size in humans.

Dogs are one of the hardest animals to clone, with only South Korea thought to have successfully created a clone in the past.

As well as the enhancements, researchers said in the Journal of Molecular Cell Biology some dogs will be bred with DNA mutations in a bid to help medical research, including some which mimic Parkinson’s.

Dr Lai added: "The goal of the research is to explore an approach to the generation of the new disease dog models for biomedical research.

"Dogs are very close to humans in terms of metabolic, physiological and anatomical characteristics."

But some have criticised the experiments, citing ethical concerns.

Mr King said: “This is the way its likely to proceed if the law is changed, first of all they will use it for medical purposes, most likely to treat a genetic condition.

“In terms of genetic engineering we will be seeing this more and more.”

There are also fears that, as well as medical, tinkering with genetics could also lead to a rise in designer or novelty pets.

Dr Lai said his team have no intentions to breed the bulked up beagles as pets.

But Mr King also voiced fears that this breakthrough, coupled with existing cases of altering human embryos, could lead to further calls for designer babies.

The director of HGA, an independent body, claimed there are multiple examples of eugenics going on already, citing women who are intelligent and beautiful are paid more for their eggs in the US.

Mr King said: “It’s not scaremongering.

“I’m seeing the beginning of a campaign within the scientific community to legalise human genetic engineering.

“We’ve seen how it happened with the thee-parent embryo.

I can see the same thing building up with genetic engineering.”

There are strict laws around cloning, but one example of a case in the UK is Dolly the sheep.

Born in 1996, she died aged six in 2003, half the normal life span of a Finn Dorset sheep.

And recently, an artificial womb for premature babies was tested on lambs, and showed significant success.

Lambs born at the equivalent of 23 weeks were placed inside the fake womb which contained fluid mimicking that found in an amniotic sac.

They remained inside for 28 days, and continued to develop, even growing white fleeces.

Guo Longpeng, the China press officer for the Asia division of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, said: "Cloning is unethical.

"Like any other laboratory animal, these animals are caged and manipulated in order to provide a lucrative bottom line.

**Biotechnology Revolution**

Biotechnology has advanced so rapidly over the past few years that scientists can now edit the genomes of plants and animals with ever-increasing precision. Using new techniques like [**CRISPR/Cas9**](http://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2016/12/30/13164064/crispr-cas9-gene-editing), researchers have already shown they can alter genes [**to create hornless cattle**](https://go.redirectingat.com/?id=66960X1516588&xs=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nature.com%2Fnbt%2Fjournal%2Fv34%2Fn5%2Ffull%2Fnbt.3560.html) or [**mushrooms that don’t brown easily**](https://go.redirectingat.com/?id=66960X1516588&xs=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nature.com%2Fnews%2Fgene-edited-crispr-mushroom-escapes-us-regulation-1.19754).

But the really big question — the stuff of sci-fi — is whether we’ll use genome-editing tools on people to wipe out heritable diseases or to enhance human capabilities. It’s no longer a question of whether we’ll be able tocreate “designer babies”: The technologyis improving at a stunning pace. Instead, it’s a question of whether we *should*. It’s an ethics question, a policy question.

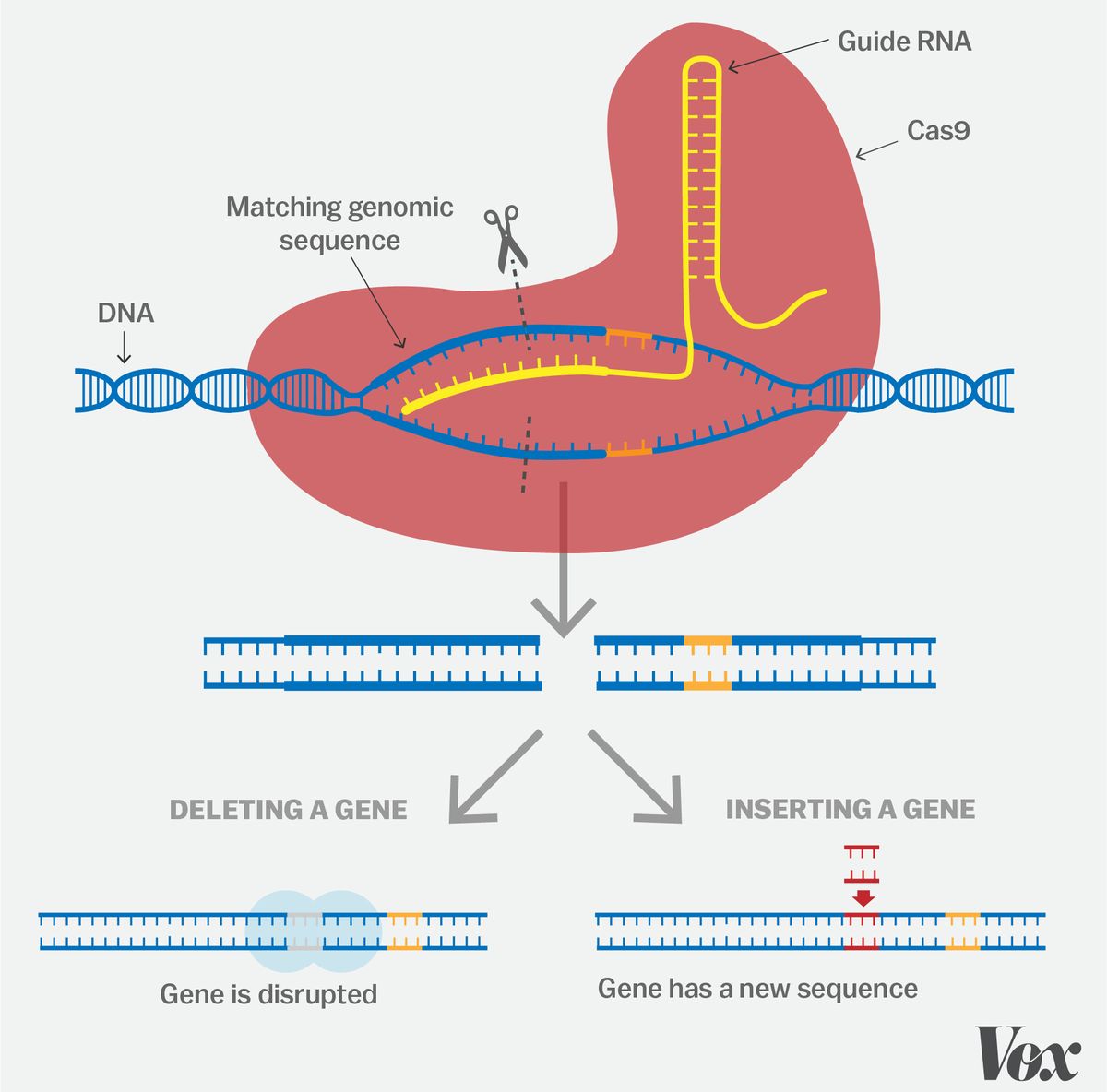
On Tuesday, the influential National Academy of Sciences released a 261-page report on this issue, titled [**“Human Genome Editing: Science, Ethics, and Governance.”**](https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24623/human-genome-editing-science-ethics-and-governance) It’s one of the most thorough looks yet at what’s likely to be possible with new genome-editing techniques — and why scientists should tread carefully.

The report’s recommendations are eyebrow-raising: In very, very limited cases, editing of viable human embryos should be allowed to go forward in the United States — a conclusion that’s [**certain to prove controversial**](http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/02/us-panel-gives-yellow-light-human-embryo-editing). In particular, the report argues, clinical trials to edit human sperm, eggs, and embryos should be permissible in cases where there’s a high chance of preventing babies from being born with serious genetic diseases and no “reasonable alternatives” exist.

By contrast, the panel says editing embryos for human enhancement — say, making people stronger or more intelligent — should absolutely *not* proceed in the United States until there’s much broader society-wide discussion of the thorny ethics involved, like the risks of exacerbating the gap between rich and poor. The report is an in-depth discussion of the issues at play here, so let’s dig in.

**The four big reasons we might want to edit the human genome**

The report starts by taking stock of all the powerful biotech tools available today, from [**zinc finger nucleases**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zinc_finger_nuclease) to [**TALEN**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transcription_activator-like_effector_nuclease) to [**CRISPR/Cas9**](http://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2016/12/30/13164064/crispr-cas9-gene-editing). While the technical details vary, these techniques “can be used to make precise changes in the genome at a high frequency and with considerable accuracy.” Here’s a diagram showing [**how CRISPR/Cas9 works**](http://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2016/12/30/13164064/crispr-cas9-gene-editing):

A basic guide to how CRISPR works. *(Javier Zarracina)*

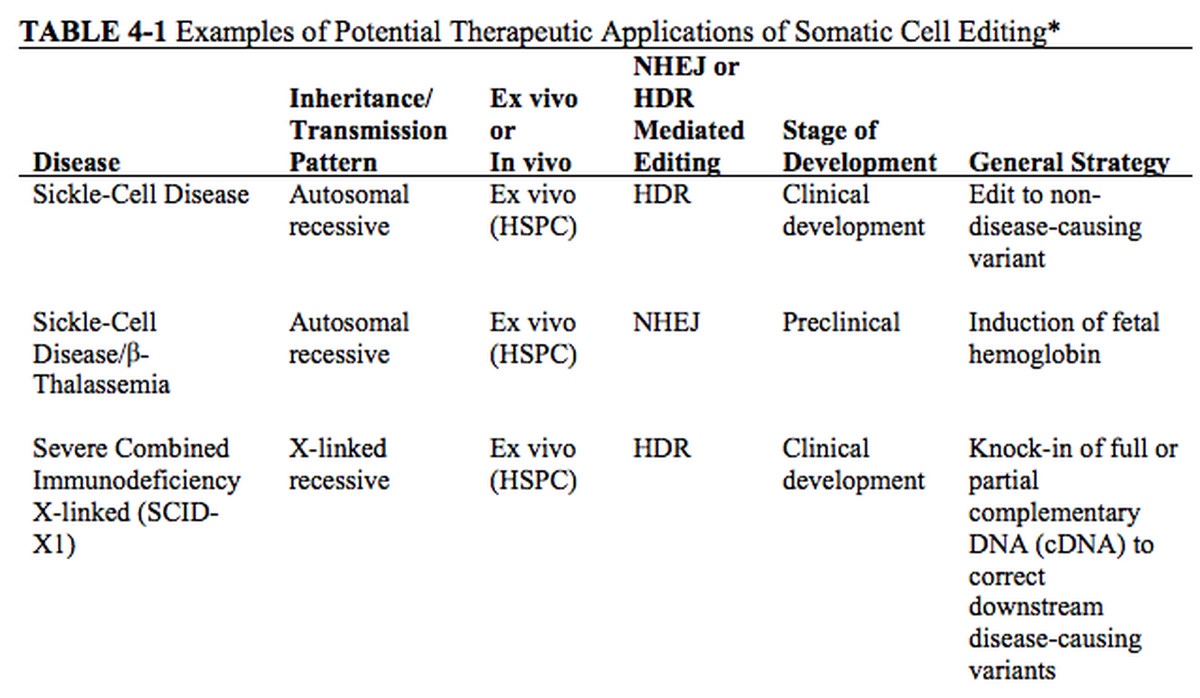
There are four big reasons why scientists might want to tinker with the genetic material of human beings in particular — ranging from least controversial to most controversial:

**1) Basic research on human cells in a lab.** This one’s straightforward. A scientist takes cultures of human cells and uses, say, TALEN or CRISPR to tinker with the genetic code to figure out how our molecular processes actually work — or better understand what our genes do. Scientists might edit “somatic” cells (nonreproductive cell types like skin or liver cells) or “germline” cells (eggs or sperm). But these experiments would never produce viable embryos or modify living human beings.

This is basic, essential research that’s not much different from what’s been going on for decades, and the report argues that existing guidelines should be sufficient to govern these practices. Nothing too contentious here.

**2) Clinical trials to edit somatic cells in living humans.** Increasingly, however, scientists are also interested in using genome-editing techniques to treat diseases in humans. Last June, the National Institutes of Health [**approved**](https://go.redirectingat.com/?id=66960X1516588&xs=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nature.com%2Fnews%2Ffirst-crispr-clinical-trial-gets-green-light-from-us-panel-1.20137) the first-ever clinical trial to use CRISPR as a cancer treatment. Scientists at the University of Pennsylvania will take immune cells out of 18 cancer patients, edit the cells to make them more effective at targeting cancer, and then infuse the cells back into the patient to see what happens. (This trial is mainly intended to probe the safety of this technique.)

This sort of “gene therapy” will become more common as editing techniques improve. The NAS report cites a long list of potential applications down the road. An excerpt:

*(National Academies of Sciences)*

The panel argues that there aren’t any hugely troubling ethical issues here, since this involves altering somatic (i.e., nonreproductive) cells, and the altered traits can’t be passed on to offspring. The panel does, however, urge caution. Genome-editing techniques still aren’t perfect, and they can sometimes misfire, leading to random mutations or other “off-target” effects in the edited cells. What’s more, no one’s yet been able to develop clear safety standards around what misfires are acceptable.

So, the report says, regulators at NIH will need to scrutinize proposals for gene therapy trials on a case-by-case basis. In general, it’s safest to take a cell out of a patient and edit it (known as “ex vivo” treatment), because researchers can more easily check for off-target effects. By contrast, there are still plenty of technical challenges involved in editing cells directly inside a human body (“in vivo” treatment).

**3) Editing sperm, eggs, and embryos to stop inheritable diseases.**Okay, now we’re getting to the controversial stuff. It’s one thing to edit an adult’s immune cells. If anything goes awry, the effects won’t be passed on. It’s another matter entirely to edit sperm, eggs, or embryos (known as the “germline”) and create genetic changes that can be passed down from generation to generation. Now we’re no longer talking about editing a single human. We’re talking about editing *humanity*.

For now, the FDA and NIH are barred from approving research on editing human embryos, because of the potentially fraught social and ethical concerns involved. But other countries, like [**China**](https://go.redirectingat.com/?id=66960X1516588&xs=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nature.com%2Fnews%2Fchinese-scientists-genetically-modify-human-embryos-1.17378) and the [**United Kingdom**](http://www.vox.com/2016/2/1/10886644/crispr-news-uk-niakan), are moving forward with embryo editing, and interest is certain to grow. There are thousands of inheritable diseases caused by mutations to a single gene (like Huntington’s). For many families, genome-editing may be the only way to prevent kids from being born with certain conditions.

So the panel tries to strike a balance here. It argues that the US government should allow clinical trials on editing sperm, eggs, or embryos — but only under very, very limited conditions. It should be done only to try to prevent “serious diseases” where there’s a convincing link between the gene in question and the disease — and only when there are no “reasonable alternatives.” The panel also urges rigorous oversight and a “continued reassessment of both health and societal benefits and risks.”

The panel concedes that this recommendation is likely to prove contentious. Some people will find the idea of editing viable sperm, eggs, or embryos morally wrong. Others will note that concepts like “reasonable alternatives” and “serious disease” are left frustratingly vague. And still other researchers may find these guidelines so strict as to bar useful research. (More on this below.)

It’s also not clear how widespread embryo editing would become even if US regulators did approve it. As the panel notes, there are still “major technical challenges to be addressed in developing this technology for safe and predictable use in humans.” As a result, the panel predicts that we aren’t likely to see much germline genome editing to prevent disease “in the foreseeable future.”

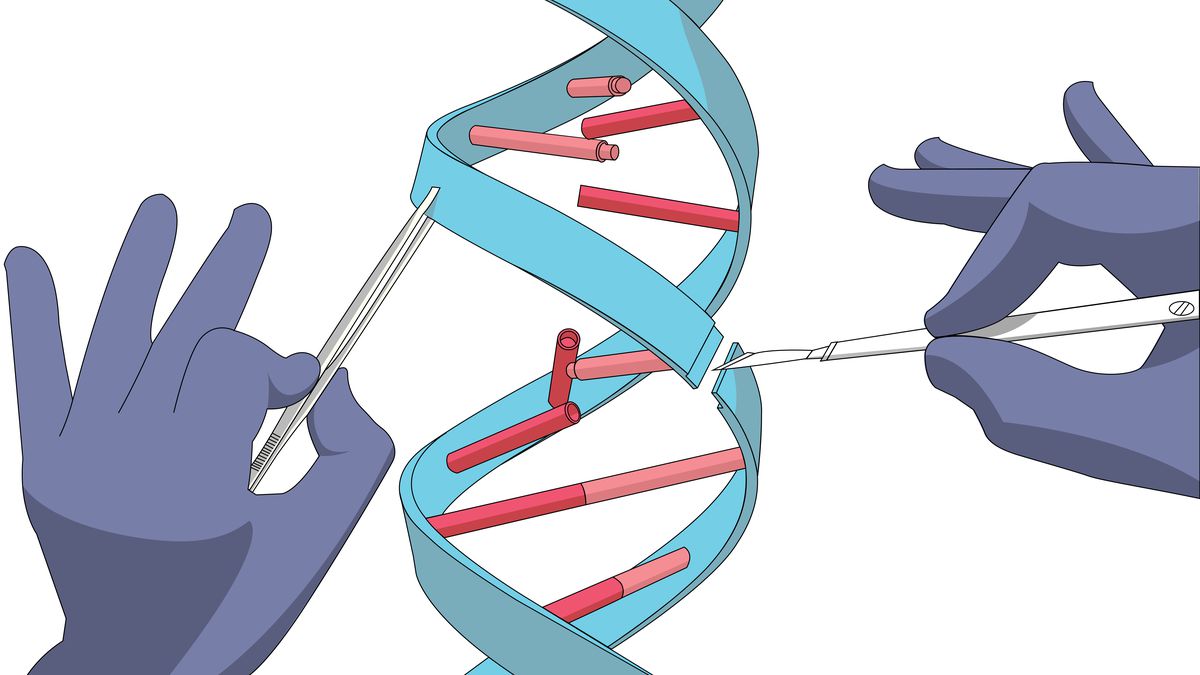
**4) Editing the human genome for “enhancement.”**Of course, if scientists could one day edit viable embryos to eliminate diseases, they could *also*conceivably edit embryos for enhancement. Stronger babies. Smarter babies. Babies born only with blue eyes. ***[Gattaca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gattaca)***territory, basically.

The NAS report notes that this possibility raises all sorts of thorny issues. Would the use of genetic enhancement make inequality worse? Might it one day become so prevalent that enhancement becomes *mandatory*, like vaccines are today? Should parents have a right to improve their children through genetic modification? How far should regulations around genome editing go to respect religious and cultural discomfort? Are there risks we haven’t even thought of yet? (Almost certainly.)

The report basically concludes that we haven’t even begun to have a serious discussion around these issues, as a society. Nor do policymakers really understand yet what sorts of regulations and governance these techniques should require. As such, the panel recommends that “genome editing for purposes other than treatment or prevention of disease and disability should not proceed at this time.”

But that’s easier said than done. The report notes that the boundary between disease prevention and enhancement can often be hazy. Using genome editing to improve musculature for patients with muscular dystrophy might be okay. But what about improving musculature for people genetically disposed to be weaker than normal? Where do you draw the line? What about genetic editing to improve cholesterol levels? As such, the report notes, scientists and policymakers are going to have to think harder about what counts as “normal” and what is an “enhancement.”

**This report won’t end controversy around human genome editing**

Should we? *(Shutterstock)*

Suffice to say, this report doesn’t have all the answers for what’s okay and what’s not around human genome-editing — and it would be ridiculous to expect as much. This is a complex debate that will persist for decades.

Instead, the National Academy of Sciences panel tried to lay out some principles to guide further discussions. The development of any new regulations around genome-editing needs to be transparent and open, with ample public input. For instance: “Ongoing reassessment and public participation should precede and clinical trials of heritable germline editing.” And: “Incorporate public participation into the human genome editing policy process about ‘enhancement.’”

Even experts who are steeped in this topic have wildly different views of what’s appropriate. Back in 2015, a group of scientists [**wrote a letter**](https://go.redirectingat.com/?id=66960X1516588&xs=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nature.com%2Fnews%2Fdon-t-edit-the-human-germ-line-1.17111) in *Nature*calling for a moratorium on all embryo editing, period. The authors, led by Edward Lanphier of the DNA editing company Sangamo Therapeutics, argued that the potential benefits were still too hazy right now and the risks were too great:

In our view, genome editing in human embryos using current technologies could have unpredictable effects on future generations. This makes it dangerous and ethically unacceptable. Such research could be exploited for non-therapeutic modifications.

The critics also worried that a backlash against embryo modification could end up stifling promising research around gene therapy (No. 2 on our list in the last section):

We are concerned that a public outcry about such an ethical breach could hinder a promising area of therapeutic development, namely making genetic changes that cannot be inherited.

In [**an interview**](http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/02/us-panel-gives-yellow-light-human-embryo-editing) with *Science*on Tuesday, the lead author of that essay, Lanphier, expressed disappointment with the new NAS report’s cautious approval of embryo editing in some cases: “It changes the tone to an affirmative position in the absence of the broad public debate this report calls for.”

By contrast, George Church, a geneticist at Harvard and one of the pioneers of CRISPR, [**has long argued**](https://www.statnews.com/2015/11/30/gene-editing-crispr-germline/) that while the benefits of editing embryos seem small right now, they are compelling enough to expand research. Here’s what he told Stat in 2015:

We need only one compelling argument to initiate a new social norm — even when the market is small (as for orphan drugs). For germline modification, we have at least three compelling cases: 1) mitochondrial diseases; 2) families in which post-natal remedies are inadequate and both parents are fully afflicted (20 percent of the world’s marriages involve close relatives); and 3) scenarios in which treating (and possibly pre-screening) single germ cells is safer than treating millions of somatic cells, since each cell adds to the collective risk of developing cancer.

In that same piece, NIH director Francis Collins is much more worried about the potentially risky side effects of human germline editing; you should read [**their entire exchange**](https://www.statnews.com/2015/11/30/gene-editing-crispr-germline/).

This new report is hardly going to be the last word on this debate, but the NAS tends to be influential in guiding US government policy, and it’s nudged the discussion significantly in the direction of allowing designer babies — even in limited cases.

**The Feinstein Affair**

[CONFIRMED: Former Feinstein Staffer Raised $50 Million, Hired Fusion GPS And Christopher Steele After 2016 Election](http://thefederalist.com/2018/04/27/confirmed-former-feinstein-staffer-hired-fusion-gps-christopher-steele/)

*A declassified congressional report confirms that Daniel Jones, a former intelligence committee staffer for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, hired Fusion GPS and Christopher Steele to push the Russian collusion narrative against Donald Trump.*

APRIL 27, 2018 By [Sean Davis](http://thefederalist.com/author/seandavis/)

A declassified congressional report confirms [prior reporting by *The Federalist*](http://thefederalist.com/2018/02/20/is-a-former-feinstein-staffer-running-fusion-gpss-post-election-russia-dossier-operation/) that Daniel Jones, a former staffer for Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), hired Fusion GPS and Christopher Steele after the 2016 election to push the anti-Trump Russian collusion narrative.

According to the report, Jones, who runs an investigative outfit called the Penn Quarter Group (PQG), told the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in March of 2017 that he had retained the services of Fusion GPS and Christopher Steele to “continue exposing Russian interference” in the 2016 election. Steele is the former British spy who authored the infamous unverified dossier of allegations against President Donald Trump.

Although Jones’ name is redacted in the report, the biographical details plus previous reporting on the matter make clear that he is the individual referenced. The report also revealed that Jones told federal investigators that he had raised $50 million from “7 to 10 wealthy donors located primarily in New York and California.”

As *The Federalist* [first reported](http://thefederalist.com/2018/02/20/is-a-former-feinstein-staffer-running-fusion-gpss-post-election-russia-dossier-operation/) in February, Jones previously worked as a senior intelligence staffer for Feinstein, who currently serves as the ranking member on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is currently investigating Fusion GPS. In that capacity, she violated committee precedent by [unilaterally releasing a transcript of the testimony of Fusion GPS founder Glenn Simpson](http://thefederalist.com/2018/01/25/grassley-feinsteins-fusion-gps-stunt-prevented-us-interviewing-kushner/) without disclosing that a top former staffer of hers was directing the firm’s efforts during the Judiciary committee’s investigation.

The congressional report stated that Jones “planned to share the information he obtained with policymakers on Capitol Hill and with the press, and also offered to provide PQG’s entire holdings to the FBI.” That information was gleaned from an FBI interview document called an FD-302, which was prepared on March 28, 2017. Feinstein’s office did not respond to multiple requests for comment about her interactions with Jones during the course of her committee’s investigation of Fusion GPS prior to the publication of this article.

The former Feinstein staffer’s involvement with Fusion GPS’s and Steele’s post-election dossier efforts was first publicly hinted at in January in several inquiry letters from Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) to various Democratic party leaders who were likely responsible for funding Fusion GPS’s 2016 dossier work. That letter named Jones in a lengthy footnote listing a host of characters involved with the dossier and its financing, creation, and dissemination.

His name also came up in leaked texts between Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) and Adam Waldman, a registered foreign agent for Russian Oligarch Oleg Deripaska:

*“Chris Steele asked me to call you,” Waldman wrote to Warner on March 16, 2017. That text touched off a back-and-forth conversation about how Warner could get access to Steele, a key witness in an ongoing congressional investigation. According to Waldman, Steele demanded a bipartisan letter from Warner and Burr requesting that he present himself for questioning.  
  
“I spoke w Steele,” Waldman wrote on April 25, 2017. “He repeated the same position which is that he wants to be helpful but is fearful of the triumvirate of cost, time suck and reputation.”  
  
“He asked me what your concern was about a letter first and I explained it but he would still like as a first protective step from you and [Sen. Richard] Burr asking him and his partner to assist w the investigation by answering questions,” Waldman added. “He said he will also speak w Dan Jones whom he says is talking to you.”  
  
“I pointed out there is no privilege in that discussion although Dan [Jones] is a good guy and very trustworthy guy. I encouraged him again to engage with you for the sake of the truth and of vindication of the dossier,” he wrote.*

It is not known how many members of Congress Jones worked with during the course of multiple congressional investigations into Fusion GPS’s involvement in the 2016 election and its simultaneous work on behalf of a Kremlin-linked company previously charged by U.S. authorities for money laundering and evading U.S. sanctions against Russia.

Jones did not respond to a request for comment on the nature of his work with Fusion GPS and Christopher prior to publication of this article.