

Progress Educational Trust

140 Gray's Inn Road  
London  
WC1X 8AX

[www.progress.org.uk](http://www.progress.org.uk)

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Keeping you up to speed with  
Progress

## Staff

**Sarah Norcross**, director

[snorcross@progress.org.uk](mailto:snorcross@progress.org.uk)

**Sandy Starr**, communications officer

[sstarr@progress.org.uk](mailto:ssstarr@progress.org.uk)

**Kirsty Horsey**, reproduction editor

[khorsey@progress.org.uk](mailto:khorsey@progress.org.uk)

**Chris Chatterton**, genetics editor

[cchatterton@progress.org.uk](mailto:cchatterton@progress.org.uk)

**Vivienne Raper**, science editor

[vraper@progress.org.uk](mailto:vraper@progress.org.uk)

## Trustees

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# Progress Report

The Newsletter of the [Progress Educational Trust](http://www.progress.org.uk)

Summer 2010

## Past Progress

### 'Spectrum of Opinion: Genes, Autism and Psychological Spectrum Disorders'

This Wellcome Trust funded project reached its climax on 25 June when the School Resource Pack created by Sandy Starr was piloted in a year eleven psychology class at Robert Napier School in Gillingham, Kent.

The class used two articles from the pack in conjunction with the glossary for a comprehension exercise, a springboard for discussing the pros and cons of genetic research into autism and a mini debate.

Sandy and Sarah, who observed the lesson, were delighted to hear one student define 'reductionism' to another. A further highlight was a student saying that he now understood what is meant by eugenics.

The feedback from the teachers after the lesson was very positive. They suggested different ways in which the pack may be used in the future, including as a day for GCSE students to get a taste of sixth form level work.

The pack has been developed for use with Sixth Formers (Key Stage 5 in the UK education system), but may also have other uses and applications.

The pack is free for anyone to read and use, either as a print version which can be downloaded as a pdf document, or it can also be used as a

web resource and can be found on the PET website here

<http://tinyurl.com/2wy98we>

## Current Progress

### BioNews Survey

It is a year since the new BioNews website and new look email were launched and so it seemed timely to ask BioNews readers for their views on the content and length of BioNews. We also need information about you, our loyal readers, so that we can market advertising space in BioNews more effectively. This will help keep BioNews FREE and in production.

The survey has 12 questions should only take five minutes to complete - so why not complete it now?

<http://tinyurl.com/2wy98we>

### Progress patron

PET is proud to announce that Baroness Mary Warnock has agreed to be our first Patron.

Testament to the influence that Baroness Warnock has had on public policy is the fact that 25 years after she chaired the Committee of Inquiry into Human Fertilisation and Embryology, the UK is still abiding by the recommendations made in the committee's report, often simply referred to as the Warnock report. To have such a well-respected figure, who has given her name to perhaps the world's most influential report on the ethics of assisted conception and embryo research,

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means a lot to us and to the people we try to help.

## Keeping up with Progress

There are now several ways in which you can keep up with the latest developments at PET.

[www.progress.org.uk](http://www.progress.org.uk)

By visiting the PET home page you can get a weekly summary of what is happening in our orbit, whether it is the appointment of the new Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health Anne Milton or the award of an MBE in the latest round of Queen's Birthday honours to Friend of PET, Dr Alexina McWhinnie.



By becoming a Friend of PET on Facebook you can not only keep up to date with our activities you can also become part of an active community.



Finally, remember you can follow BioNews on Twitter. Links to all articles will come out as they are published and we will also tweet on events (debates, conferences etc) organised by PET. Find us at <http://twitter.com/BioNewsUK>

## New genetics editor

Dr Gabrielle Samuel stepped down as genetics editor at the end of June.

Chris Chatterton has taken over this role. Chris has a background in genetics having studied it as an undergraduate at KCL and in his masters at Lancaster University. He will be combining his work at BioNews with the completion of his PhD thesis '*Metabolic Syndrome: The construction of a group of risk factors into a new disease?*'

## Future Progress

### 'Passport to Parenthood: The Evidence and the Ethics Behind Cross-Border Reproductive Care'

PET's annual conference will take place on **24 November** at the Institute for Child Health in London.

The discussion conference is divided into four sessions:

- The Evidence Behind Cross-Border Reproductive Care
- Who Oversees Overseas? (the law and regulation)
- Having a Child: How Far Should You Go? (the ethics)
- Cross-Border Reproductive Care: A Problem or a Solution?

Speakers will be limited to ten minutes for their presentations to give over the maximum amount of

time to the audience for questions, comments and discussion.

To do this effectively we not only need great speakers but also adept chairs. We are pleased to announce that Lord Naren Patel has agreed to chair the ethics session.

Full details of speakers, chairs and how to book can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/36hod5u>

Or you can email Sandy:

[sstarr@progress.org.uk](mailto:ssstarr@progress.org.uk)

## BioNews at BSHG Conf

PET will be running a workshop at the British Society for Human Genetics on Monday 6 September at the University of Warwick, entitled 'Scientists Engaging with the Media'

PET will also have an exhibition stand at the conference.

<http://tinyurl.com/2w4xcnn>

## Fertility Show

PET will have an exhibition stand at the Fertility Show on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 November at Kensington Olympia in London. This event is aimed at those needing assisted conception and so is an ideal opportunity to introduce BioNews and PET's work to a new audience.

<http://tinyurl.com/32nh73b>



## Work In Progress

Advertise any jobs or opportunities you or your organisation may have in BioNews.

Candidates that come forward through BioNews demonstrate a keen interest in the fields of genetics and assisted conception and a desire to keep up to date with the latest developments and thinking in the sector.

The cost of placing an advertisement is **£75** for one edition, **£125** for two and **£175** for three editions.

Contact Sarah for more information.

[snorcross@progress.org.uk](mailto:snorcross@progress.org.uk)