

'For who is harmed by the genetic supermarket? The parents are not harmed by having the healthier, handsomer and more intelligent children that they want. Are the children harmed?'

From the Foreword by Peter Singer: Shopping at the Genetic Supermarket.

These provocative questions, and their possible answers from biomedical science, ethics, sociology and philosophy, are the subject of this searching investigation. In seeking to establish whether inheritable genetic modification is the new dividing line in gene therapy, the editors, themselves representing clinical medicine, public health and biomedical ethics, have brought together a distinguished team of scientists and scholars to address the issues from the perspectives of biological and social science, law and ethics. Their purpose is to consider how society might deal with the ethical concerns raised by inheritable genetic modification, and to re-examine prevailing views about whether these kinds of interventions will ever be ethically and socially justifiable. The book also provides background to define the field, and discusses the biological and technological potential for inheritable genetic modification, its limitations, and its connection with gene therapy, cloning and other reproductive interventions.

For scientists, bioethicists, clinicians, counsellors and public commentators, this is an essential contribution to one of the critical debates in current genetics.

'This thoughtful and stimulating book provides a vision of the likely future of the genetic supermarket, and the nightmares about it. It is a book that is readable and very interesting.'

Justice Michael Kirby, High Court of Australia and Member of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO.



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