



**Progress Educational Trust**

informing debate on assisted conception and genetics

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

**Source: Progress Educational Trust**

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### **Progress Educational Trust responds to mitochondria nucleus interplay research published in the journal *Science*, and its implications for mitochondrial donation**

Sarah Norcross, director of charity, the Progress Educational Trust, which aims to improve choices for people affected by genetic conditions or infertility, said: 'It is reassuring that, because of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's (HFEA's) thoroughgoing approach to regulation, the issue of mito-nuclear interactions and the implications for mitochondrial donation have already been addressed; that's why the HFEA's scientific panel recommended previously that any clinic offering mitochondrial donation should consider haplogroup matching – matching donor mtDNA with the mtDNA of the prospective mother. In addition, the UK's vigilant approach, where mitochondrial donation is approved on a case-by-case basis, means that, if a situation of concern were to arise, it would be easy for the regulator to take action.'

ENDS

#### **Notes for editors**

For media interviews and case studies, contact head of communications Catherine Hill at 020-7278-7870 [chill@progress.org.uk](mailto:chill@progress.org.uk)

1. Progress Educational Trust (PET) is a UK charity working to advance public understanding of, and engagement with, science, law and ethics in the fields of human genetics, human reproduction, embryology and stem cell research. Funded by grants and public donations, PET aims to improve the choices for people affected by infertility or genetic conditions.

<https://www.progress.org.uk/>

2. PET organises free-to-attend events debating the responsible application of reproductive and genetic science and publishes BioNews, a free comment and news service. Subscribe to BioNews at <https://www.bionews.org.uk/subscribe>