

Ethics of Cystic Fibrosis Gene Therapies *by*

Michelle Rojas

Abstract Id: **191** Submitted: **February 27, 2017** Event: **Conference for Undergraduate Research at FIU**
2017 Topic: **Microbiology & Immunology**

While knowledge of genetics originated centuries ago, the field had difficulty progressing until the Human Genome Project (HGP) expanded this topic of study by offering new insights on human genetics. The HGP was created to organize and lay out the complete set of genetic material in a species otherwise known as the genome, this project also aided in the discovery of disease-causing genes. The recognition of disease-causing genes led to the formulation of gene therapies to treat specific disorders such as cystic fibrosis. This study analyzes not only how ethics are impacting the development of cystic fibrosis gene therapies but also exhibits how scientist view ethical concerns on these treatments and their beliefs. It also demonstrates a deeper connection to the awareness of ethical concerns in the scientific community because even though some of the ethical issues are common knowledge they are not deeply analyzed by individuals in the science field. The study was conducted by interviewing professionals in the Science field focused on working with cystic fibrosis. The results of the experiment show a hindering in the development of cystic fibrosis gene therapies, this is due to the ethical issue causing limitations in the research process. Ethics has played a role in the development of cystic fibrosis gene therapies considering that this research began in the 1990's. The development of new technology urges the scientific community to deal with societal concerns about this research in order to bring these treatments to the public and improve the patients' quality of life.