

# CRISPR/Cas9 workshop

## Wrap-up session

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# CRISPR-Cas9 for genome editing

- Great potential overall
- Ethical challenges in germ line:  
transformative nature of technology implies risks for future generations
  - What to do? How to assess risks?
- In region:
  - Risk of revamped racism and discrimination
  - Lack of laws and regs taken advantage of
  - “Backwards” laws in the works

# What to do?

Consensus as a starting point:

- Nothing should be automatically ruled in or out before it has been fully explored
  - = no simple solution does the work
  - = no “general law,” no “moratorium”
- Case by case evaluation is indispensable
  - Informed by correct understanding of science: We will need to trust experts

## How can we get there?

# Procedural approach

1. Process of ethical arbitrage to ensure responsible governance:
  - Rigorous evaluation of each case
    - Risks and benefits
    - Consensual assessment of risks (region? global? – wide impact)
  - Legitimacy
2. Engagement
  - Foster wide dialogue, include civil society
  - Accuracy, effectiveness –and equity

# Can we build on the “lessons learned” in other areas of research ethics?

- Stay away from categorical prohibitions or overregulation that cancels the potential of this technologies while ensuring research/use of technologies is ethical (responsible )
- Figure out early: what is right from a legal / regulatory perspective
  - *Ni tanto que queme al santo...*
  - Avoid “predatory” practices while allowing for thorough case by case evaluation

# Can we build on the “lessons learned” in other areas of research ethics?

- Need to provide meaningful guidance
- Need to enhance trust in each element of the research ethics system
  - Productive collaboration
  - Proactively inform the population

## Goal: How can we catalyze ethical research / use of research?

- Offer: PAHO Biethics: Forum to discuss these issues, raise awareness, advance consensus