

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2015

**Summary: CICASP Seminar 17  
Mini-Debate about a 'hot' topic**

In this session, the subject of debate was genome editing. This is a very 'hot' issue; on 1st–3rd December, hundreds of scientists and bioethicists met in Washington DC for the International Summit on Human Gene Editing. The recent development of a new technique, CRISPR/Cas9 has made it simpler and more widely accessible to edit genomes. Groups read short summaries from scientific journals, science magazines and a variety of news sources. Topics ranged from the potential for 'designer babies', gene therapy for human disease, creating custom-pets to the potential for using gene editing to eradicate malaria. Students were ready to dispute the pros and cons of genome editing and all used the opportunity to put across various points. The debate was lively and participants argued logically.

**CICASP Seminar 2016**

This was the last CICASP Seminar of 2015. We will begin again on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Look out for the reminder emails closer to this date.

**Feedback**

The CICASP Team welcomes comments on previous CICASP Seminars and suggestions for future seminars. Our seminars are aimed at improving your skills in communicating scientific ideas and your research results in English. We are keen to get you requests for topics you would like covered, particularly those you find most useful, enjoyable and/or interesting. The CICASP Seminars are for you and so we want to hear from you all.