

1 **WOODNICK LAW, PLLC**  
2 1747 E. Morten Avenue, Suite 205  
3 Phoenix, Arizona 85020  
4 Telephone: (602) 449-7980  
5 Facsimile: (602) 396-5850  
6 Office@WoodnickLaw.com  
7 **Gregg R. Woodnick, #020736**  
8 **Isabel Ranney, #038564**  
9 *Attorneys for Respondent*

7 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA**  
8  
9 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

10 In Re the Matter of:

Case No.: FC2023-052114

11 **LAURA OWENS,**  
12  
13 Petitioner,

**EXPEDITED MOTION TO EXTEND  
DISMISSAL DATE ON INACTIVE  
CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE AN  
EVIDENTIARY HEARING**

14 and

(Assigned to the Honorable Julie Mata)

15 **CLAYTON ECHARD,**  
16  
17 Respondent.

**[Expedited Ruling Requested]**

18  
19 Respondent, CLAYTON ECHARD, by and through undersigned counsel, hereby files  
20 his Expedited Motion to Continue on Inactive Calendar and Schedule an Evidentiary Hearing.  
21

22 This Motion is expedited, as this matter is set to be dismissed on February 2, 2024 and  
23 Respondent is entitled to an adjudication/finding of non-paternity.

24 **Background:** Petitioner has never provided Respondent with any substantive proof of  
25 her alleged pregnancy and all paternity tests have indicated there is “little to no fetal DNA.”  
26 Respondent maintains that the sexual activity that took place was not conducive to a  
27  
28

1 pregnancy. Nevertheless, and as recently as December 8, 2023 (**Exhibit 1**), Petitioner  
2 continues to publicly maintain that she is pregnant with Respondent's "twins." Respondent  
3 believes the pregnancy has been fabricated as a means of harassing Respondent, who has an  
4 Injunction Against Harassment against Petitioner due to the harassing nature of her  
5 communications with Respondent (CV2023-053952) (**Exhibit 2**).<sup>1</sup> Due to Petitioner's  
6 relentless assertions that she is pregnant with Respondent's "twins" and repeated outreach to  
7 the media about the alleged (and very disputed) pregnancy, Respondent is entitled a judicial  
8 finding of non-paternity. As and for his Motion, Respondent states as follows:  
9

10  
11 1. This matter has been pending since Petitioner, L [REDACTED] S, filed a  
12 Petition to Establish Paternity and Legal Decision-Making, Parenting Time, and Child  
13 Support on or about August 1, 2023.  
14

15 2. Petitioner also subsequently filed a "Motion to Communicate" (August 8, 2023)  
16 and "Motion for Contempt," (August 23, 2023), attempting to coerce Respondent into  
17 communicating with her prior to the "birth" of the alleged (and believed to be entirely  
18 fictitious) twins (predating the Injunction Against Harassment). Both of these Motions were  
19 denied by this Court. Notably, Petitioner testified under oath, without medical support at the  
20 Injunction Against Harassment hearing, that the "twins" are due February 14, 2023.  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

27 <sup>1</sup> Petitioner has an Order of Protection against Respondent (FC2023-052771) that permits the parties to only speak about  
28 the family court action. Petitioner has repeatedly called the police to report that Respondent is violating the Order of  
Protection, despite Respondent clearly indicating he has no desire to communicate with Petitioner. No charges have  
ever been furthered against Respondent.

1           3.     Respondent timely filed his Response on or about August 21, 2023.  
2 Contemporaneously with this filing is Respondent's Motion for Leave to Amend  
3 Respondent's Response to Petition to Establish Paternity.  
4

5           4.     **Petitioner has not provided scientific proof that she is pregnant.** Petitioner  
6 has provided a video of a sonogram that appears to have been "borrowed" from a YouTube  
7 video from 7 years ago, a video showing her "pregnant stomach" which is believed to be  
8 edited and/or depicts Petitioner wearing a fake stomach, screenshots of alleged appointment  
9 dates with doctors, and multiple positive HCG tests. Petitioner has not provided any verified  
10 sonogram reports, fetal anatomy scans (required at 18-22 weeks), sonogram images from  
11 various checkups showing the progression of the pregnancy, or any additional medical  
12 information that would be typical of the high risk pregnancy with twins that Petitioner is  
13 claiming.  
14  
15

16           5.     **All paternity results have come back showing little to no fetal DNA.** The  
17 company that has been conducting the tests, Ravgen Inc, has conducted at least three (3)  
18 paternity tests, two (2) of which have shown little to no fetal DNA and one (1) was allegedly  
19 lost in transit. Ravgen, Inc does not provide written reports without a Court Order (*see Exhibit*  
20 *3*, which explains the DNA process). Upon information and believe, Ravgen Inc. is waiting  
21 on a fourth test before they can complete their report but Petitioner has not cooperated.  
22  
23

24           6.     **Respondent has registered himself on the Putative Father Registry (Exhibit**  
25 **4).** Respondent has been forced to register on the Putative Father Registry out of fear that  
26 Petitioner will use her social media platform to further promote her false pregnancy narrative.  
27  
28

1           7.     **Respondent is entitled to a finding of non-paternity.** Petitioner began this  
2 action in bad faith and based on an entirely fabricated pregnancy. Petitioner will continue to  
3 claim she is pregnant with Respondent's children unless this Court enters a finding of non-  
4 paternity and dismisses the case **with prejudice** based on that determination.  
5

6           8.     **This matter should be continued at least sixty (60) days to allow**  
7 **Respondent time to receive discovery from Petitioner.** Petitioner, contrary to Rule 49, has  
8 not provided any disclosure to Respondent. Though Respondent vehemently denies that  
9 Petitioner is pregnant by him, he is entitled to discovery that includes verified (not edited or  
10 otherwise fabricated) medical records.  
11

12           9.     Respondent requests this Court set a virtual thirty-minute (30) evidentiary  
13 hearing on the issue of paternity/non-paternity, attorney's fees, and Rule 26 sanctions.  
14

15           10.    Based on Petitioner's unreasonable behavior in filing this action without any  
16 scientific proof of pregnancy and continuing to publicly claim she is pregnant by Respondent,  
17 Respondent requests that she be Ordered to pay his reasonable attorney's fees and costs  
18 incurred in this action pursuant to A.R.S. § 25-324.  
19

20           **WHEREFORE,** Respondent respectfully requests this Court enter the following:

- 21           A.     Issue an Order continuing the matter on the dismissal date for sixty (60) days;  
22           B.     Schedule a virtual evidentiary hearing on the issue of paternity/non-paternity,  
23 attorney's fees, and Rule 26 sanctions; and  
24           C.     Award Respondent his reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in this  
25 matter based on Petitioner's unreasonableness pursuant to A.R.S. § 25-324;  
26           D.     Any other Order this Court deems appropriate, including sanctions.  
27  
28

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.

WOODNICK LAW, PLLC



---

Gregg R. Woodnick  
Isabel Ranney  
*Attorneys for Respondent*

**ORIGINAL** of the foregoing efiled  
this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023 with:

Clerk of the Court  
Maricopa County Superior Court

**COPY** of the foregoing delivered  
this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023with:

Honorable Julie Mata  
Maricopa County Superior Court

Laura Owens  
[REDACTED]

Petitioner Pro Per

By: /s/MB

VERIFICATION

I, **CLAYTON ECHARD**, declare under penalty of perjury that I am the Respondent in the above-captioned matter; that I have read the foregoing *Expedited Motion to Extend Dismissal Date on Inactive Calendar and Schedule an Evidentiary Hearing* and I know of the contents thereof; that the foregoing is true and correct according to the best of my own knowledge, information and belief; and as to those things stated upon information and belief, I believe them to be true.



CLAYTON ECHARD

12/11/23

Date

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**EXHIBIT “1”**





**EXHIBIT “2”**

TRIAL COURTS OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY

Superior Court of Arizona/AZ007035J/0700 18380 N. 40th St Phoenix, AZ 85032 Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00

C. Curley DEPUTY CLERK

Injunction Against Harassment

[ ] Amended Order

[ ] Sexual violence—no service fee

Case No. CV2023-053952

Court ORI No. AZ007035J

County Maricopa State AZ

PLAINTIFF

Clayton Echard First Middle Last

PLAINTIFF IDENTIFIERS

[Redacted] Plaintiff's Date of Birth

And on behalf of any minor family member or other Protected Person listed below:

v.

DEFENDANT

Laura Owens First Middle Last

DEFENDANT IDENTIFIERS

Table with columns: SEX, RACE, DOB, HT, WT, EYES, HAIR, DRIVER'S LICENSE #, STATE, EXP DATE. Includes text: Arizona Prohibits Release of Social Security Numbers

Defendant/Plaintiff Relationship: The Defendant and I are dating or have dated and have not had a romantic or sexual relationship.

Defendant's Address: [Redacted]

[ ] Estimated Date of Birth

CAUTION: [ ] Weapon Alleged in Petition

WARNINGS TO DEFENDANT: This injunction shall be enforced, even without registration, by the courts of any state, the District of Columbia, any U.S. Territory, and may be enforced by Tribal Lands (18 U.S.C. § 2265). Crossing state, territorial or tribal boundaries to violate this injunction may result in federal imprisonment (18 U.S.C. § 2262).

Only the Court, in writing, can change this injunction.

This order is effective for one year from date of service.

THE COURT HEREBY FINDS THAT:

It has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter.

[ ] Defendant received actual notice of this Hearing and had an opportunity to participate.

THE COURT, finding reasonable evidence of harassment or that great or irreparable harm would result if this injunction is not granted before Defendant can be heard in opposition, and there are specific facts attesting to efforts to give notice to Defendant or there are reasons why notice should not be given, HEREBY ORDERS:

NO CRIMES. Defendant shall not commit any act of harassment (A.R.S. § 12-1809(T)) or sexual violence (A.R.S. § 23-371) against Plaintiff or Protected Persons.

[x] NO CONTACT. Defendant shall have no contact with Plaintiff except through attorneys, legal process, court hearings, and as checked: [ ] Phone [ ] Electronic (email, text, etc.) [ ] Mail [ ] Other:

THE COURT FURTHER ORDERS:

PROTECTED LOCATIONS. Defendant shall not go to or near Plaintiff's or other Protected Person's:

- [x] Residence (confidential) [ ] Workplace: [ ] School: [ ] Other:

[ ] ARIZONA FIREARMS LAW. Under Arizona Rules of Protective Order Procedure Rule 25(g), the court finds that Defendant poses a credible threat to the physical safety of Plaintiff or Protected Persons. Therefore, Defendant shall not possess, receive, or purchase firearms and shall surrender same within 24 hours of service to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office or other local law enforcement agency.

**OTHER ORDERS:**

The Court finds reasonable evidence of harassment of the Plaintiff by the Defendant or that great or irreparable harm would result to the Plaintiff if the Injunction is not granted before the Defendant can be heard in opposition, and that there are specific facts attesting to the efforts to give notice to the Defendant or that there are reasons why notice should not be given. Defendant is not to have contact with Plaintiff or the protected party[ies] at any time by any means, including but not limited to any in-person, physical, verbal, nonverbal, telephonic (text, email, apps), internet (social media, instant messaging, apps) or third-party contact. Defendant shall not record by video or audio Plaintiff or the protected party[ies] using any device, including but not limited to cell phones, cameras or other recording devices. Defendant shall not approach Plaintiff or the protected party[ies] at their residence, workplace, school or vehicle. The Maricopa County Superior Court does not give specific distance instructions in its injunctive orders. However, Plaintiff and or protected party may make a report to law enforcement if Defendant is close enough to cause concern or make contact. Defendant shall not be near Plaintiff and/or any protected party. Defendant shall not approach Plaintiff or a protected party in public places.



11/2/2023

Date

Judicial Officer

Cynthia Gialketsis

Printed Name

---

**WARNING: This is an official court order. If you disobey this order, you may be arrested and prosecuted for the crime of interfering with judicial proceedings and any other crime you may have committed in disobeying this order.**

**NOTICE:** If you disagree with this injunction, you have the right to request a hearing, which will be held within 10 business days after your written request has been filed in the court that issued this injunction. Violations of this injunction should be reported to a law enforcement agency, not the court.

**ADDITIONAL WARNINGS TO DEFENDANT: Nothing the plaintiff does can stop, change, or undo this Injunction without the court's written approval. You must appear in court to ask a judge to change (modify) or dismiss (quash) this Injunction.**

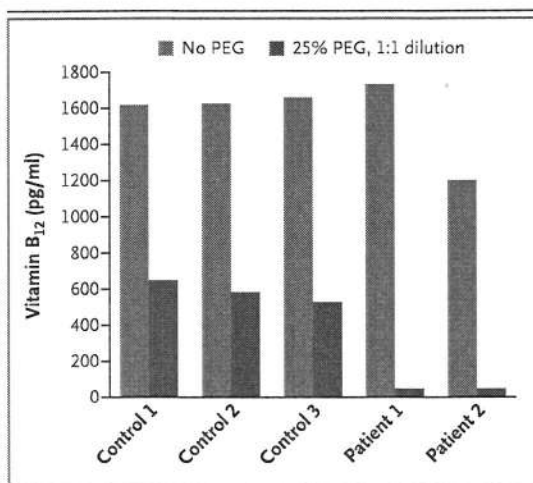
**EXHIBIT “3”**

with vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, but both continue to have symptoms of peripheral neuropathy.

There have been reports of false normal results for vitamin B<sub>12</sub> levels generated by automated analyzers when the serum of patients with megaloblastic anemia is evaluated. The results have been attributed to the possibility that high levels of intrinsic factor–blocking antibodies interfere with the assay.<sup>1,2</sup> Today, vitamin B<sub>12</sub> assays are primarily performed on automated analyzers that apply a method based on the competitive binding of serum vitamin B<sub>12</sub> with reagent intrinsic factor. Many of these platforms have also been found to be inaccurate when serum containing intrinsic factor–blocking antibodies is analyzed.<sup>2</sup> Disconcertingly, pernicious anemia is the most common cause of vitamin B<sub>12</sub> deficiency, and up to 70% of patients with pernicious anemia have intrinsic factor–blocking antibodies.<sup>3</sup>

To investigate further, we precipitated serum immunoglobulins by adding 25% polyethylene glycol (PEG) by volume in a 1:1 dilution with serum. Using unmodified and PEG-treated samples of serum from the two patients and from three controls (patients without macrocytic anemia), we then ran tests for vitamin B<sub>12</sub> levels (Fig. 1). In the PEG-treated samples from the two patients, vitamin B<sub>12</sub> levels decreased to below the limit of detection; the PEG-treated samples from the controls showed a decrease compatible with the 1:1 dilution.

We have been performing vitamin B<sub>12</sub> assays on the Siemens Dimension Vista system at our institution. A review of the package insert shows that the manufacturers are aware of this issue and recommend testing for intrinsic factor–blocking antibodies if test results are in conflict with the clinical diagnosis. We are in the midst of evaluating other platforms for this assay and have notified our clinicians of the issues described. However, we are concerned that there is insufficient awareness in the medical community of the possibility of spuriously high vitamin



**Figure 1. Spuriously Elevated Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> Levels in Two Patients with Pernicious Anemia.**

Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> levels in serum samples to which polyethylene glycol (PEG) had been added and serum samples to which PEG had not been added are shown for two patients with pernicious anemia and three controls without anemia who had normocytic red cells. To convert the values for vitamin B<sub>12</sub> to picomoles per liter, multiply by 0.7378.

B<sub>12</sub> levels; we urge pathologists to review their methods and clinicians to incorporate the information presented here into their diagnostic evaluations.

David T. Yang, M.D.

Rachel J. Cook, M.D.

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health  
Madison, WI  
dtyang@wisc.edu

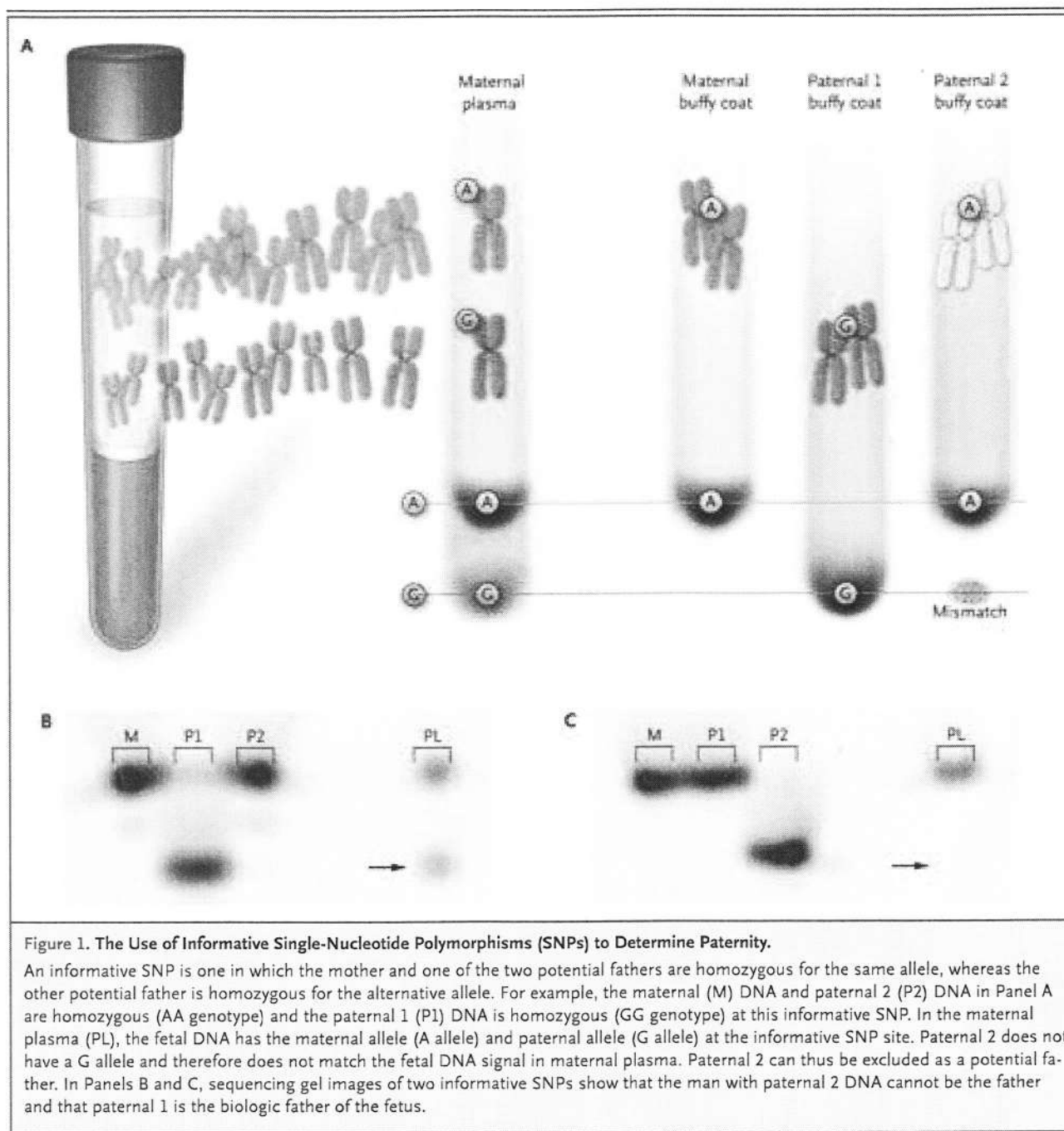
Disclosure forms provided by the authors are available with the full text of this letter at NEJM.org.

1. Vlasveld LT, van't Wout JW, Meeuwissen P, Castel A. High measured cobalamin (vitamin B<sub>12</sub>) concentration attributable to an analytical problem in testing serum from a patient with pernicious anemia. *Clin Chem* 2006;52:157-9. [Erratum, *Clin Chem* 2006;52:342.]
2. Hamilton MS, Blackmore S, Lee A. Possible cause of false normal B-12 assays. *BMJ* 2006;333:654-5.
3. Toh BH, van Driel IR, Gleeson PA. Pernicious anemia. *N Engl J Med* 1997;337:1441-8.

## A Noninvasive Test to Determine Paternity in Pregnancy

**TO THE EDITOR:** Five percent of women who are raped become pregnant, which results in an estimated 32,000 pregnancies annually in the United States.<sup>1</sup> In many circumstances, it is unclear

whether the pregnancy resulted from the rape or from consensual intercourse. The only options available for prenatal paternity determination are invasive tests, such as the sampling of chorionic



villi and amniocentesis, that carry a risk of miscarriage and are not performed before 10 to 15 weeks of gestation. Because 78.9% of terminations of unintended pregnancies are carried out before 10 weeks,<sup>2</sup> it seems likely that many rape victims terminate pregnancies before testing for paternity. A noninvasive prenatal paternity test based on cell-free fetal DNA present in maternal blood, performed at 8 weeks of gestation or later,

could provide a safe option for determining paternity.

Previous studies of noninvasive prenatal paternity testing have shown that amplification of fetal alleles from maternal blood is suppressed by the presence of cell-free maternal DNA.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, fetal DNA in maternal plasma is highly degraded. These limitations can be overcome by first adding a fixative to maternal blood samples

to stabilize cell membranes and prevent the release of maternal DNA into the plasma.<sup>4</sup> By using single-nucleotide polymorphisms to distinguish fetal DNA<sup>5</sup> from maternal DNA (Fig. 1), one can use short amplicons (shorter than 75 bp) to minimize allele dropout (absence of a fetal DNA signal when one should be present).

We collected blood samples from 30 women with pregnancies of 8 to 14 weeks of gestation. Each maternal blood sample was paired with blood from the biologic father and then randomly grouped with 1 of 29 samples from unrelated men. The 3 samples in each group were processed in a blinded manner. We determined paternity correctly for all 30 samples, by comparing the genetic profile of fetal DNA in maternal blood with those of the 2 “paternal” samples (1 genuine, 1 not) (Table 1 in the Supplementary Appendix, available with the full text of this letter at [NEJM.org](http://NEJM.org)). The odds of identifying the correct father for all 30 samples are less than 1 out of 1 billion ( $P=1.86 \times 10^{-9}$ ). Our approach shows that noninvasive prenatal paternity testing can be performed within the first trimester with the use of a maternal blood sample.

Xin Guo, Ph.D.

Ravgen  
Columbia, MD

Philip Bayliss, M.D.

Lancaster General Women and Babies Hospital  
Lancaster, PA

Marian Damewood, M.D.

York Hospital  
York, PA

John Varney, M.P.S.

Emily Ma, M.H.S.

Brett Vallecillo, M.H.S.

Ravinder Dhallan, M.D., Ph.D.

Ravgen  
Columbia, MD  
[rdhallan@ravgen.com](mailto:rdhallan@ravgen.com)

Supported by Ravgen, which holds patents and has patents pending for the methods described.

Disclosure forms provided by the authors are available with the full text of this letter at [NEJM.org](http://NEJM.org).

- Holmes MM, Resnick HS, Kilpatrick DG, Best CL. Rape-related pregnancy: estimates and descriptive characteristics from a national sample of women. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 1996;175:320-4.
- Guttmacher Institute. Facts on induced abortion in the United States, 2011 ([http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb\\_induced\\_abortion.html](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_induced_abortion.html)).
- Wagner J, Džigan S, Marjanović D, Lauc G. Non-invasive prenatal paternity testing from maternal blood. *Int J Legal Med* 2009;123:75-9.

4. Dhallan R, Au WC, Mattagajasingh S, et al. Methods to increase the percentage of free fetal DNA recovered from the maternal circulation. *JAMA* 2004;291:1114-9.

5. Dhallan R, Guo X, Emche S, et al. A non-invasive test for prenatal diagnosis based on fetal DNA present in maternal blood: a preliminary study. *Lancet* 2007;369:474-81.

Correspondence Copyright © 2012 Massachusetts Medical Society.

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are considered for publication, subject to editing and abridgment, provided they do not contain material that has been submitted or published elsewhere. Please note the following:

- Letters in reference to a *Journal* article must not exceed 175 words (excluding references) and must be received within 3 weeks after publication of the article.
- Letters not related to a *Journal* article must not exceed 400 words.
- A letter can have no more than five references and one figure or table.
- A letter can be signed by no more than three authors.
- Financial associations or other possible conflicts of interest must be disclosed. Disclosures will be published with the letters. (For authors of *Journal* articles who are responding to letters, we will only publish new relevant relationships that have developed since publication of the article.)
- Include your full mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address with your letter.
- All letters must be submitted at [authors.NEJM.org](http://authors.NEJM.org).

Letters that do not adhere to these instructions will not be considered. We will notify you when we have made a decision about possible publication. Letters regarding a recent *Journal* article may be shared with the authors of that article. We are unable to provide prepublication proofs. Submission of a letter constitutes permission for the Massachusetts Medical Society, its licensees, and its assignees to use it in the *Journal's* various print and electronic publications and in collections, revisions, and any other form or medium.

#### NOTICES

Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and telephone number of a contact person or department. We regret that we are unable to publish all notices received. Notices also appear on the *Journal's* website ([NEJM.org/medical-conference](http://NEJM.org/medical-conference)). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or filtered by specialty, location, or month.

#### EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF CENTRES OF MEDICAL ETHICS (EACME)

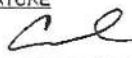
The annual EACME conference, entitled “Other Voices, Other Rooms: Bioethics, Then and Now,” will be held in Bristol, England, Sept. 20–22.

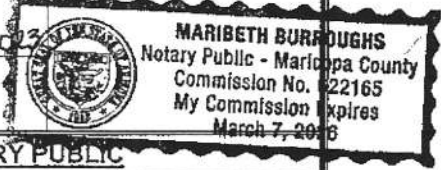
Contact the School of Social and Community Medicine, Centre for Ethics in Medicine, Room G.04, Canynge Hall, Whatley Rd., Bristol BS8 2PS, United Kingdom; or call (44) 117 33 14521; or fax (44) 117 92 87326; or e-mail [roz.hime@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:roz.hime@bristol.ac.uk); or see <http://www.eacme2012.org>.

**EXHIBIT “4”**



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS  
NOTICE OF CLAIM OF PATERNITY

CHILD'S INFORMATION			
NAME OF CHILD (IF BORN)	FIRST NIA	MIDDLE	LAST
DATE OF BIRTH	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
ESTIMATED DATE OF BIRTH (IF NOT BORN)	MONTH	DAY	YEAR
PLACE OF BIRTH	CITY	COUNTY	STATE
MOTHER'S INFORMATION			
CURRENT LEGAL NAME OF MOTHER	FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME (IF DIFFERENT)	FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST
MOTHER'S RESIDENCE ADDRESS (IF KNOWN)	NUMBER & STREET		
	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
		AZ	
FATHER'S INFORMATION			
NAME OF FATHER* (disputed)	FIRST clayton	MIDDLE	LAST Echard
FATHER'S RESIDENCE ADDRESS	NUMBER & STREET		
	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
		AZ	
	PHONE NUMBER		
* See attached Affidavit of NonPaternity			
I hereby claim paternity of the child identified above. This is to signify my intention to prove paternity through further legal action and my willingness and interest to support this child to the best of my ability.			
SIGNATURE OF FATHER	SIGNATURE 		DATE 12/11/23
NOTARY PUBLIC			
STATE OF Arizona		COUNTY OF Maricopa	
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS		11 <sup>th</sup> DAY OF	December OF 2023
NOTARY SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE Maribeth Burroughs		DATE 12/11/2023
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES	DATE 3/7/2026		
MUST BE SIGNED IN THE PRESENCE OF NOTARY PUBLIC			



Form #: VRCP1 (Rev. 10/30/08)

Revised: October 30, 2008

- Leadership for a Healthy Arizona -