|  |
| --- |
| Contributed by: Zannie Dallara – Bakersfield College  |

Scientist Spotlight:

Jennifer Doudna

|  |
| --- |
| ../Screen%20Shot%202017-12-08%20at%2011.39.37%20AM.png Geneticist Dr. Jennifer Doudna co-invented a groundbreaking new technology for editing genes, called CRISPR-Cas9. The tool allows scientists to make precise edits to DNA strands, which could lead to treatments for genetic diseases ... but could also be used to create so-called "designer babies." Doudna reviews how CRISPR-Cas9 works -- and asks the scientific community to pause and discuss the ethics of this new tool. – Ref: TEDGlobal>London CRISPR stands for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats. Dr. Jennifer Doudna is a member of the departments of [Molecular and Cell Biology](http://mcb.berkeley.edu/) and [Chemistry](http://chemistry.berkeley.edu/) at [UC Berkeley](http://berkeley.edu/), the [Howard Hughes Medical Institute](http://www.hhmi.org/research/investigators/doudna_bio.html), and [Lawrence Berkeley National Lab](http://www.lbl.gov/) – She lives and works in California! Here is the link to her lab’s webpage: <http://rna.berkeley.edu/> Watch this TED Talk by Dr. Doudna by [clicking here.](https://www.ted.com/talks/jennifer_doudna_we_can_now_edit_our_dna_but_let_s_do_it_wisely?utm_campaign=tedspread--b&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare) Read the brief article by Dr. Doudna by [clicking here](http://www.hhmi.org/research/mechanisms-rna-controlled-gene-expression) called Mechanisms of RNA-Controlled Gene Expression. |

|  |
| --- |
| After listening to the story and reading the article, write a 250 word or more reflection with your responses to what you heard. You might wish to discuss: 1. What was most interesting or most confusing about Jennifer Doudna and her work?
2. Do you have ethical concerns about this research?
3. What did you learn from Jennifer Doudna’s research about DNA editing, how it works, and who it impacts?
4. What do this video and the background information on Jennifer Doudna tell you about the types of people that do science?
5. What new questions do you have after reviewing Jennifer Doudna’s research?
 |