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# Beware rogue doctors creating GM babies

**Oliver Moody**

Rogue doctors could create the world's first genetically modified babies with unproved and dangerous new technologies, two of Britain's most senior scientists have warned.

Robin Lovell-Badge, group leader of stem cell biology at the Francis Crick Institute and an adviser to the UK fertility watchdog, said there was a "very scary" prospect of unscrupulous clinics

pervverting scientific breakthroughs to make genetically enhanced children.

Lord Winston, one of the pioneers of IVF research, said it was only a matter of time before the first designer babies were born and the use of gene editing could spiral out of control. It was likely to happen in the UK and the results would be "truly unpredictable".

A fortnight ago Professor Lovell-Badge's colleagues won approval from the government to produce the first

GM human embryos in the western world, under strict controls, but there are concerns that doctors elsewhere could take advantage of the discoveries to create GM test-tube babies.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington yesterday, he said: "In the UK we're very lucky that we have good regulation, but in some countries you either have no regulation or minimal regulation."