

The Right **TO KNOW** *One's* **ORIGINS**

This collection of essays addresses the interests and rights of donor-conceived people. The contributors shine light from many directions on the issues of secrecy and donor anonymity. Adults and children who have been donor-conceived offer their varied and sometimes emotion-rich perspectives; health scientists review the literature and assess the health risks of secrecy and anonymity; ethics experts discuss the history and ethics of the issues; and legal scholars consider international and domestic law, and formulate actionable proposals for legislative change.

This book puts the child of assisted conception at the centre. It makes a significant contribution to the debate about whether people who are donor-conceived should know the circumstances of their conception, and the identity of their progenitors.

“Conceiving people using donor gametes and embryos is a growing business. Yet donor anonymity is the norm in most nations. Is it better, healthier or in the interest of donor-conceived people to know their progenitors? This book builds on comprehensive and richly varied case histories and clinical evidence to deliver a clear statement. Donor-conceived people, like adoptees, should have the right to know their origins.”

COLIN MICHIE, FRCPCH, FRSPH,
Consultant Paediatrician, Ealing Hospital,
United Kingdom

“This book is an eye opener and must be read. It illuminates a child’s right to know its lineage: an important, sadly ignored aspect of assisted

human reproduction. The essays are thoughtful and highlight all aspects of this critical topic. I hope the comprehensive treatment will catalyze public debate and lead to legislative change, with Canada joining those nations that have led the way.”

VISHWAJIT L. NIMGAONKAR, PhD,

MRCPsych, Professor of Psychiatry and Human Genetics, University of Pittsburgh, U.S.A.

“The issue of whether people conceived by donor gametes should know their identities has long been considered from the perspective of others. This book presents the issue from the perspective of the donor-conceived, and offers practical proposals for legislative change. With its comprehensive, candid and sometimes provocative approach, the volume challenges the claim that ‘the kids are alright’.”

JON MEDDINGS, MD, FRCPC, Dean,

Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary,
Canada

Juliet R. Guichon is Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary.

Ian Mitchell is a Professor of Paediatrics and bioethicist in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary,

Michelle Giroux is Professor of Law, University of Ottawa.