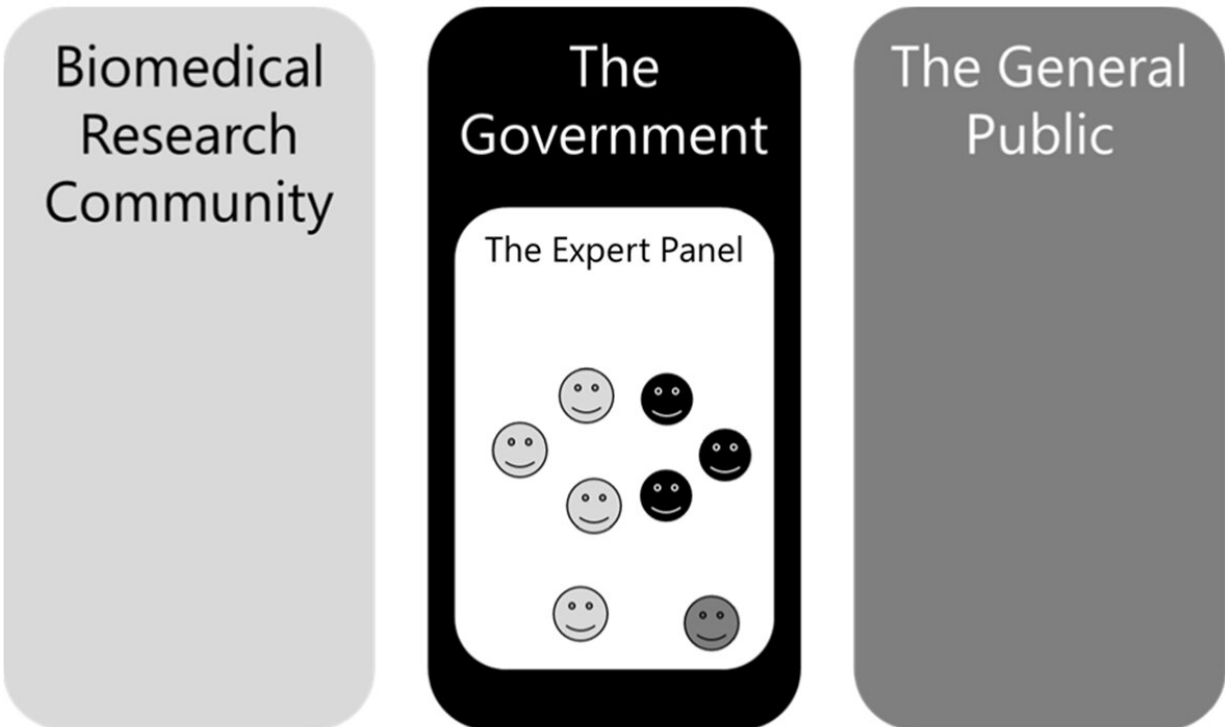


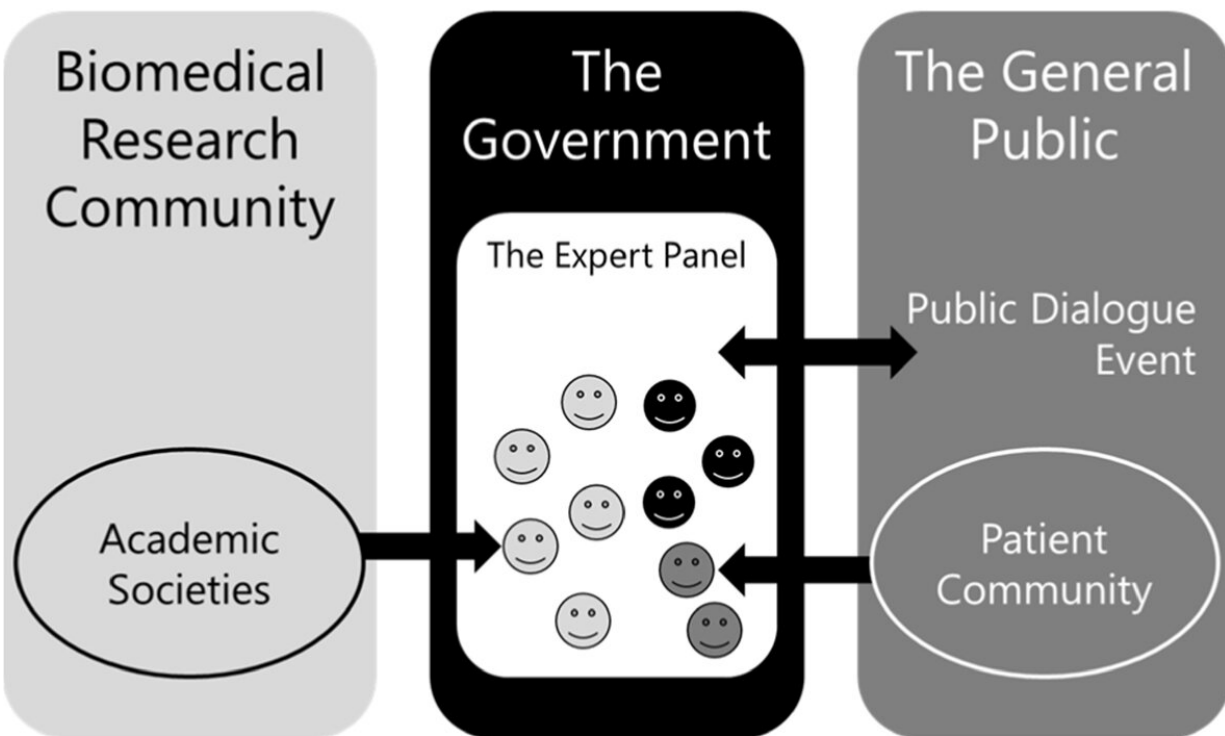
Researchers and citizens play positive roles in the governance of human genome editing

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A Conventional relationships.



B Relationships during the genome editing discussion.



Graphical abstract. Credit: *Asian Bioethics Review* (2023). DOI: 10.1007/s41649-023-00251-8

A group of researchers at Osaka University analyzed discussions on research governance of human genome editing in the Expert Panel on Bioethics in Japan and identified the positive roles played by research communities, the government, and the general public in the policy-making process. The paper is published in the journal *Asian Bioethics Review*.

Genome editing is technology that can precisely and efficiently modify the genome of an organism. Human genome editing has significant potential in [medical research](#) and clinical applications, but it also entails technical risks and ethical, legal, and [social issues](#) (ELSI). Therefore, the issue of how genome editing should be used has been actively discussed. In particular, research communities, which primarily consist of the researchers themselves, have a strong interest in this issue and have held international forums for discussions.

Attention has also been given to the potential for non-researchers to play an active role in genome editing discussions and the role of government agencies in research regulations. However, there have been no studies thus far that have comprehensively examined and descriptively identified the ways in which these stakeholders are involved in genome editing governance.

This research team focused on the Japanese Expert Panel on Bioethics, which is established within the Cabinet Office in Japan, to analyze how various stakeholders, including biomedical research communities, the government, and the [general public](#), have been involved in the discussions of the research ethics review system and in the overall policy

decision process for [genome editing](#) technologies.

The study results revealed that various stakeholders, including experts, the general public, and patients, can be involved in the governance of emerging medical technologies, and that citizens are engaging in new initiatives, such as interactive events for the general public, in ways that differ from experts. Such involvement and initiatives were not found in the conventional Expert Panel on Bioethics. Furthermore, the study found that [government agencies](#) and research communities can soundly fulfill their roles through collaboration with other stakeholders.

The results of this study could provide more effective and practical guidance to countries and organizations seeking to work with diverse stakeholders in the governance of emerging medical technologies.

More information: Tatsuki Aikyo et al, Stakeholder Involvement in the Governance of Human Genome Editing in Japan, *Asian Bioethics Review* (2023). [DOI: 10.1007/s41649-023-00251-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s41649-023-00251-8)

Provided by Osaka University

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