**A few definitions and elements to help deal with the topic**

**PGD** is used prior to implantation to help identify genetic defects within embryos (refers to genetic profiling of embryos prior to implantation) created through **IVF** to prevent certain diseases or disorders. (*DIP in French ; diagnostique préimplantatoire*)

**IVF**: *In vitro fertilization* *(acronym for the assisted reproductive technology)* is a process by which an egg is fertilized by sperm outside the body. A woman's eggs and man's sperm are placed together in a plastic dish for fertilization. Once the eggs are fertilized, the resulting embryos are placed in the woman's uterus in the hope that a successful pregnancy will follow. *IVF* is a major treatment for infertility. *(FIV fécondation in vitro in French)*

On July 25, 1978, Louise Joy Brown, the world's first successful "test-tube" baby was born in Great Britain thanks to the team of Physiologist Dr. Robert Edwards

The first French test tube baby, Amandine, was born on February 24, 1982. Every year over 350,000 babies come to birth via a IVF in France nowadays.

**Eugenics** ( used with a singular verb ): definition:

The study of or belief in the possibility of improving the qualities of the human species or a human population, especially by such means as discouraging reproduction by persons having genetic defects or presumed to have inheritable undesirable traits (negative eugenics)  or encouraging reproduction by persons presumed to have inheritable desirable traits (positive eugenics)

Dates back to 1883, first coined by an English scientist, Francis Galton

Jacques Testart, French biologist at the origin of the first tube baby, decided to stop experiments in 1986 because he was worried about the use of science to implement eugenics. He also thinks that democracy is not a protection to excesses and unethical drifts: *"Méfiez-vous. Lorsque règne l'idéologie du progrès et que le pouvoir médical est concentré entre les mains d'une minorité, tout est possible, même le pire. "*

**Extract from web site: http://www.uvm.edu/~lkaelber/eugenics/**

Lutz Kaelber, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Vermont

*Presentation about "eugenic sterilizations" in comparative perspective at the 2012 Social Science History Association:*

**American eugenics** refers to **compulsory sterilization laws adopted by over 30 states** that led to **more than 60,000 sterilizations of disabled individuals**. Many of these individuals were sterilized because of a disability: they were **mentally disabled or ill**, or belonged to **socially disadvantaged groups** living on the margins of society. American eugenic laws and practices implemented in the first decades of the twentieth century influenced the much larger National Socialist compulsory sterilization program, which between 1934 and 1945 led to approximately 350,000 compulsory sterilizations and was a stepping stone to the Holocaust. Even after the details of the Nazi sterilization program (as well as its role as a precursor to the "Euthanasia" murders) became more widely known after World War II (and which the *New York Times* had reported on extensively and in great detail even before its implementation in 1934), sterilizations in some American states did not stop. Some states continued to sterilize residents into the 1970s.

While Germany has taken important steps to commemorate the horrors of its past, including compulsory sterilization (however belatedly), the United States arguably has not when it comes to eugenics. For some states, there still is a paucity\* of reliable studies that show how and where sterilizations occurred. Hospitals, asylums, and other places where sterilizations were performed have so far typically chosen not to document that aspect of their history. Moreover, until now there has never been a website providing an easily accessible overview of American eugenics for all American states

(Paucity : absence)