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Author	Topic: Bush Blows It
<p>HB3 Buccaneer</p> <p>Posts: 1999 From: Altadena, CA Registered: Nov 2000</p>	<div></div> <p>profile edit quote</p> <p>posted 11 August 2001 08:31 PM</p> <hr/> <p>Hmmm...yas, I'm sensing that this will be a major issue in the next election...moreover, I see public opinion becoming polarized (yet again, but with even greater fervor) between religious fundamentalists and scientific rationalists...in other woids, those who see the Apocalypse in stem-cell research, VS. those who see it in terms of the progress of human civilization...</p> <p>np: "Idiots Rule" Jane's Addiction</p> <p>Stem cell limits worry scientists</p> <p>-----</p> <p>By Paul Recer</p> <p>Aug. 10, 2001 WASHINGTON (AP) --</p> <p>President Bush's decision to limit embryonic stem cell studies to existing sets -- whether it's 60 or a dozen -- could be a "cruel compromise" excluding people from medical miracles promised by the new science, researchers say.</p> <p>They said that only by studying stem cells from many different embryos can science be sure that treatments developed would be universally available. By limiting the number, they said, there is the risk of creating two biological classes -- those who can be treated with stem cell therapy and those who cannot.</p>

And they questioned whether there are actually 60 usable stem cell lines, as the president said. Before his Thursday night speech, scientists had estimated there were 12 stem cell lines, including some that would not meet strict research guidelines.

Bush said he would permit federal funding but with a major restriction: Researchers could use only cells from existing embryonic stem cell lines. This restriction, he said, would mean that no more embryos would be killed to advance federally funded research. Extracting the stem cells kills the embryo.

Federal health officials said Bush's statement about the existence of more than 60 stem cell lines was based on a survey of international laboratories and includes "proprietary information" not generally available. They said the labs are in the United States, Sweden, India, Israel and Australia.

"All of the stem cell research currently being done on mice is being done on only five stem cell lines," White House counselor Karen Hughes said on NBC's "Today" show. "We're talking about 60 stem cell lines here. I think there's enough work to keep the scientific community very busy and we hope certainly to produce cures."

But most researchers say that even 60 is not enough and that it could well take hundreds of embryonic cell lines to harvest the full benefit of cell therapy.

An embryonic cell line starts as a cluster of cells, each able to evolve into any tissue in the body. The cells have the ability to divide virtually forever -- sort of like endlessly cutting out identical paper dolls from a basic pattern. In effect, the cell "line" is endless.

Properly cultured with special proteins, the new cells could evolve into heart, muscle, liver, brain and other tissue. Researchers believe these fresh cells could be injected into patients to boost or repair ailing organs.

But not all embryonic stem cell lines are the same. Since they come from different embryos, they have fundamental genetic differences. As with organ transplants, therapeutic stem cells would have to be compatible with the immune system of the receiving patient. Without this compatibility, the body rejects the curative cells, just as an incompatible kidney or heart can be rejected in an organ transplant.

For this reason, said Dr. Harold Varmus, a Nobel laureate and former head of the National Institutes of Health, limiting embryonic cell lines could be a "cruel compromise" for some people.

"We're going to have to have a sufficiently large repertoire of cell lines to treat patients who have very different" types of immune sensitivities, he said.

Limiting the cell lines "would be a very poor investment and a very cruel investment" if science ended up with stem cells that would not be compatible to many patients, he said.

Larry Goldstein, a University of California, San Diego, stem cell researcher, said, "We know that different embryonic stem cell lines have different properties. So why do we think that the very first lines to be derived have the best properties?"

Dr. James Thomson, the University of Wisconsin researcher who first isolated human embryonic stem cells, said researchers do not now know the minimum number of cells lines needed to get the maximum benefit.

Thomson estimated the number could be 100 or more, "but until we start working with the cell lines we really won't know."

Limiting the number of cell lines also discourages creation of new cell lines, the purpose of the Bush restriction.

"Right now, the number of cell lines is small, dangerously small," Thomson said. "If a fire broke out in my lab, it would knock out a major part of the cell lines. That would be a disaster for public policy."

[This message has been edited by HB3 (edited 11 August 2001).]

IP: [Logged](#)

Ninerism
Swashbuckler

Posts: 1632
From: Los Angeles, CA.,
U.S.
Registered: Oct 2000



posted 12 August 2001 10:38 AM



HB3: It is all a bit unsavory, given that those restrictions now appear to benefit mostly bio-researchers in Texas, I just read on another posting!

Also, would that the President had left all this more to special fact-finding committees which were bi-partisan, of course. It may quickly digress into something mostly religious, or quasi-religious, and with the Fundies mostly the loudest, they will get all the attention, and thus this will eventually become a discussion more about abortion issues rather than stem cell research, when fetuses are aborted whether anyone likes it or not; and those tissues can provide clues, the scientists tell us, which will likely provide great benefits to all of humankind, and thus those other-wise disposed of tissues (from embryos), will actually provide life-giving opportunities yet to be known and discovered.

I am all for supporting stem cell research, and yes, understand that there must be certain careful criteria drawn so that babies and fetuses are not merely aborted for scientific curiosity -- though am fairly certain that such research is not idle or morbid curiosity.

This matter need not be thought of as leading to some sort of "nazified" interests in which all of life is dis-honored. I donot see this as a 'Nazi' issue, though I appreciate real concerns as to messing with human genes (though purportedly, cloning is a replication of genetic material process, that is all, in order to have an identical-replication of the single-parent occur).

Ninerism

[This message has been edited by Ninerism (edited 15 August 2001).]

IP: [Logged](#)

G8R
Buccaneer

Posts: 604
From: 46.8, -121.7
Registered: Jun 2001



posted 12 August 2001 04:56 PM



quote:

Originally posted by Ninerism:

I am all for supporting stem cell research, and yes, understand that there must be certain careful criteria drawn so that babies and fetuses are not merely aborted for scientific curiosity

I too support stem cell research, but the problem I see is there is no rule of law in place to prevent the aborted babies and fetuses from being used for scientific curiosity.

quote:

Originally posted by Ninerism:

-- though am fairly certain that such research is not idle or morbid curiosity.

You of all people Ninerism, are very well aware of what inhumanity our government will do to anyone, purely for morbid curiosity.

IP: [Logged](#)

G8R
Buccaneer

Posts: 604
From: 46.8, -121.7
Registered: Jun 2001



posted 12 August 2001 05:01 PM



quote:

Originally posted by HB3:

np: "Idiots Rule"
Jane's Addiction

So true, I hope you don't think G.W. Bush rules, cuz you will find that he is just a face on card board.

IP: [Logged](#)

G8R
Buccaneer

Posts: 604
From: 46.8, -121.7
Registered: Jun 2001



posted 12 August 2001 05:54 PM



Soap box speech -

Stem cell research isn't about curing diseases. It's all about Immortality for a select few, and they get to decide who will live and who won't. If you think you, or someone you know is going to be cured by anything that is discovered through medical research, just look at the past discoveries and where they went. The last great cure was Polio, and we would still have that as a curse if it hadn't been that a very powerful president having it. Monoclonal antibodies, Interferon, Gamma globulin, Poly peptides... What happened to the Earth shattering discoveries made about them? The Medical profession is not about the cure, it's about profit! Get It?

Why does the medical profession use a stint instead of an enzyme when there's arterial blockage? Why does the medical profession prefer to remove a woman's breast instead of culturing her own antibodies, and then using them to destroy the tumors? Why does the medical profession prefer to slice and dice, instead of using our own super charged bodies to cure?

Just my Mad as Hell Opinion!

IP: [Logged](#)Squareball
unregistered

posted 12 August 2001 06:38 PM



edit



quote

Exactly G8r. So why should our tax dollars go to making these companies even richer at our expense? If they want to be rich FINE! But don't use MY money to make YOUR SELF rich! And that is what these drug companies and researchers are going to do!

IP: [Logged](#)Ninerism
Swashbuckler

posted 15 August 2001 02:40 PM



profile



edit



quote

Posts: 1632
From: Los Angeles, CA.,
U.S.
Registered: Oct 2000

G8R: With a good bite to masticate here, I do understand your compelling interests here.... and I sure donot want to see the government playing footsie with more of the same Military-Industrial/Medical complexes, either, and that is why I try to expose some of the rotten-ness at the core.

The outrageous abuses of the medical industry are manifold, and that is why I personally support 'alternative medicine/therapies/modalities'.

Probably you are on to something as to the potentials for abuse at the beginning, when only the very wealthy, ie. elitists, can afford to have themselves cloned, and perhaps it will become it not already is a quasi-religious quest for immortality, with the downloading of cloner's memories to their cloned individual's brains as "personal" memories previously stored (from discs?) and downloaded during maturation process.... maybe that immortality stuff is coming within a couple decades. That is much more than I was aiming at here in my focus, though you may be right.

That entails so much beyond my ken to adequately address cloning-for-immortality, though I do know that some already are viewing that prospect -- which I would assume is some time away because I have never heard of anyone's total memories being downloaded yet, or whatever it is called, with memories from brain cells actually placed into computer's memory.

I can see the day when those long-term elderlies, the multiple clones who have gained multiple experiences over several hundred years, may have wisdom far exceeding our present considerations.....? Maybe it would not appear so objectionable, were the person highly intelligent, very compassionate, and grown quite wise. Lord knows that such a few gifted persons on our planet might lead us far from the warring-mentalities so presently glorified in most cultures.

As you see, I consider that there might be real hope in this process -- though am quite aware that the prospects for 'foot soldiers' of special talents always are being considered from the ranks of the militarists, no doubt.

Ninerism

[This message has been edited by Ninerism (edited 15 August 2001).]

Mindsiview Pirate

Posts: 20
From: Marysville WA
Registered: Jul 2001



posted 15 August 2001 07:08 PM



The government funding any medical research kind of reminds me of these damn stadiums we got shoved down our throats here in WA. It isn't the government's job to fund these projects. I don't care for the fact that they are funding research they may or may not get rich off of from MY money.

Another thing that bugs me, is I thought a baby's embilical chord was chocked full of these stem cells... why can't we use them?

HB3 Buccaneer

Posts: 1999
From: Altadena, CA
Registered: Nov 2000



posted 18 August 2001 08:19 PM



Aug. 18, 2001 |

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The world's largest federation of scientists questioned whether there really are 60 embryonic stem cell lines available for federally funded research and challenged the Bush administration to immediately identify them.

President Bush, in an announcement last week, said that federally funded researchers could use any of more than 60 embryonic cell lines that he said existed, but the American Association for the Advancement of Science said in a statement Friday that there is doubt about the number and origins of those cell lines.

"Many of our scientific colleagues have questioned that number, believing it to be much smaller," said the AAAS statement. It urged the Bush administration to immediately make public the sources and identities of the cell lines.

"Until leading scientists in the field can assess their quality, it is not possible to determine whether the existing collection of those lines will be sufficient" for research, the statement said.

Dr. Lana Skirboll, the NIH researcher who surprised the research community by finding 60 cell lines at the request of the White House, said that she cannot identify all of the researchers that have developed cell lines because some of the labs "are not quite ready to announce."

"We will in the not-too-distant future make sure that everybody knows exactly where the 60 lines are," she said. "We don't intend to keep this hidden forever."

Skirboll said there are five labs with stem cell lines that have not been announced publicly because of "commercial confidential and other security issues."

The AAAS statement was issued as federal health officials prepared to meet later this month with officers of a University of Wisconsin foundation. The officials will be working out the legal details to allow government-funded researchers to use cell lines developed at the university.

The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, or WARF, controls the absolute rights to the five best-known and most widely studied embryonic stem cells, which were created by Dr. James Thomson of

the university. But the foundation also holds patents that may affect all 60 of the cell lines touted by President Bush.

Officials said details of the meeting are still being sorted out, but the parties are expected to negotiate ways to satisfy any patent claims WARF has against embryonic cell lines created by laboratories outside the United States.

WARF officials said they believe that those foreign cell lines must be licensed under WARF's patent rights before they can be imported for use by American scientists.

Just how this claim will be resolved is one of the sticky issues to be negotiated with the National Institutes of Health, said Andy Cohn of WARF.

The AAAS statement said that scientists do not know the origins or genetic diversity of the stem cell lines announced by Bush in his speech last week.

"The genetic diversity of the available cell lines is an important consideration in determining their value in research," the statement said.

Scientists believe that embryonic stem cells can be coaxed to grow into any kind of cell in the body. It's the cells can be transformed into cells that will energize ailing hearts, treat brain disorders such as Parkinson's disease, or perhaps even cure diabetes with new insulin-producing islets.

Thomson, who developed the first human embryonic stem cell line in 1998, assigned the cell patents to WARF, a university foundation.

Patents held by WARF include not only the five cell lines (endlessly growing colonies of identical cells) developed by Thomson, but also the laboratory methods that used to produce those lines.

As a result, Cohn said, WARF believes that virtually all of the other embryonic cell lines now in existence come under the Thomson patent and cannot be imported into the United States for use by NIH researchers unless they are licensed by WARF.

Cohn said exactly how it will all be sorted out in negotiations with NIH is far from clear. "That's what this process will determine," he said.

Another complication is an agreement between WARF and Geron Corp., a Menlo Park, Calif., biotechnology company.

Geron financed much of Thomson's work, and WARF granted the firm research rights to the five cell lines and to six tissue cell types that might be derived from those cell lines.

But Cohn said that is not an issue in the NIH discussions about basic laboratory research.

IP: [Logged](#)

Cherry Kelly
Swashbuckler

Posts: 3452
From: Belton, MO USA
Registered: Jul 2000



posted 19 August 2001 08:50 AM



profile



mail



edit



quote

Thats part of the problem - its so much speculation on what they THINK they can do.

And what about the 60 minutes show (repeated recently) where some small lab was doing some research on breast cancer but had to cease doing so because some larger firm had PATENTED gene cells? R UR cells patented - its YOUR body....but it might be OWNED by some lab...

IP: [Logged](#)

HB3
Buccaneer

Posts: 1999
From: Altadena, CA
Registered: Nov 2000



posted 19 August 2001 10:20 AM



profile



edit



quote

But that's the American way, right, Cherry?

IP: [Logged](#)

revRecluse
Buccaneer

Posts: 1608
From: North Of 60
Registered: Jan 2001



posted 19 August 2001 12:02 PM



profile



mail



edit



quote

quote:

Originally posted by HB3:
But that's the American way, right, Cherry?

Heck yeah! I've been bought and paid for by America's Capitalist's Pig's Socialist's Mistresses since I read Knut Hanson at Barnes & Noble!

np: "Capitalism Is Socialism"- Winston Smith's Smarmy Kid Brother

[This message has been edited by revRecluse (edited 19 August 2001).]

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