

Stem Cell Research

Johns Hopkins supports lifting restrictions on federal funding for research involving human embryonic stem cell lines and providing scientists the support necessary to explore the promise of human embryonic stem cell research (HESC). We also fervently oppose human reproductive cloning. Johns Hopkins is one of the earliest pioneers in the development of adult stem cell therapies.

Furthermore, as home to one of the world's foremost centers for bioethics, we have assisted in developing the ethical standards under which the field of stem cell research operates. We are committed to responsible research and have always been a major player in the development of guidelines to foster the scientific and ethical integrity of HESC research.

We strongly support the freedom of scientists and the availability of funding for somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT, popularly known as "therapeutic cloning" or "research cloning"). This type of research is vital to increasing our understanding of the pathogenesis of disease, facilitating the development of lifesaving therapies, and allowing treatments to overcome the rejection of transplanted tissues due to incompatibility.

Though a growing number of states are allocating funds specifically to promote embryonic stem cell research within their borders, a national commitment is needed to support the best science as well as the best ethical standards that will harmonize practice across the country for this cutting-edge work. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) are best suited to provide such leadership and to ensure that stem cell research in the United States is conducted professionally and ethically.