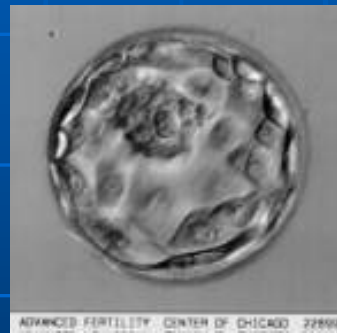


# Diogenes' Lamp: Performatives, Stem-Cell Politics, and Ethics in the Public Representation of Science



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APHA 2007: Politics, Policy & Public Health  
4131.0 Public Health Science, ethics, Policy, and Politics  
12:30 p.m., Tuesday, 6 November 2007

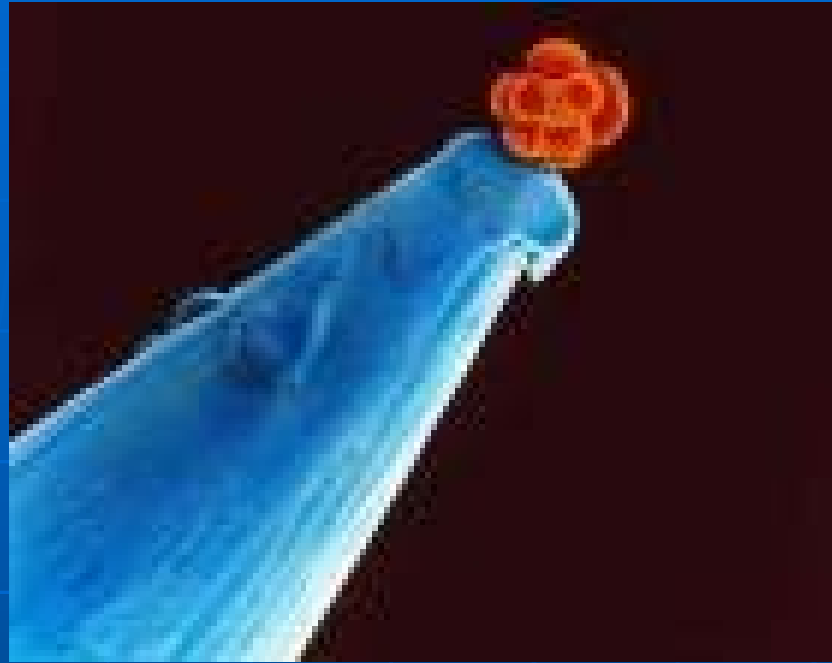
Διογένης ὁ  
Σινωπεύς

Diogenes of  
Sinope, 4<sup>th</sup> C BC(E)

(After a long day  
on Capitol Hill)



*Diogenes* by John William Waterhouse, 1905



What does this image convey  
in the scientific-political discourse of . . .

- Developmental biology ?
- Regenerative medicine ?
- Stem cell science ?
- Nanotechnology ?

*Credit:* Dr. Yorgas Nikas / Photo Researchers, Inc.

# In policy, politics & public health - Information is a Public Good

- Accurate information is a public good in a democratic society and a *public health good*.
  - In market theory, imperfect information leads to economic inefficiencies.
  - In the political realm, imperfect (or mis-) information leads to policy inefficiencies.
  - For public health either leads to resource inefficiencies and poorer outcomes.

# Information as a Public Good

- Imperfect information in part is a **function of uncertainty** (the falsification horizon of a new scientific subdisciplines is distant)
  - Claims:  
Accurate & Justified | Accurate & Unjustified  
Inaccurate & Justified | Inaccurate & Unjustified
- Accurate information is an **ethical good**.
  - Misinformation is ethically (and politically) pernicious because it deprives one's ethical (and political) freedom.

# Asymmetries of Knowledge

- A characteristic of stem cell ethics / policy debates in public discourse has been that lines of dispute involve not only judgments of value, but also operational definitions of technical terminology.

Hypothesis: the **duration** of information asymmetries between scientists and public is partially an ethical artifact: greater translation is possible, but not always a perceived interest where asymmetry increases authority or autonomy.

# Overview

- Information as a Public Good
- Polling and framing
- Performatives and stem cell politics
- The promise of miracles? California Proposition 71
- Repairatives



# Following August 9, 2001 stem cell announcement – Gallup poll re ‘ban’

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of Bush's decision on stem cell research? Do you disapprove because the ban is -- [ROTATED: too strict (or) not strict enough]? **Gallup Poll**

(COMBINED RESPONSES)

	2001 Aug 10-12	2001 Aug 9 ^
	%	%
Approve	60	50
Disapprove	34	25
<i>Too strict</i>	(12)	(7)
<i>Not strict enough</i>	(19)	(13)
<i>Don't know</i>	(3)	(5)
No opinion	6	25

Based on one night poll of 581 national adults conducted directly after President Bush's speech on stem cell research. Polls conducted entirely in one day, such as this one, are

^ subject to additional error or bias not found in polls conducted over several days.

How important is the issue of stem cell research to you -- very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

# Polling and Question Framing

- Negative or positive framing can have a significant effect on stated preferences.

Tversky A and Kahneman D. The framing of decisions and psychology of choice. *Science* 1981; 211: 453-8.

- Nisbet (2003) identifies wording effects in the stem cell context ...

*Public Opinion Quarterly* 2004; 68(1): 131-154.

# Polling and Question Framing

- **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**
  - Embryos donated to research
  - 8 high profile diseases 'possible cures'
- **National Conference of Catholic Bishops**
  - "live embryos would be destroyed"

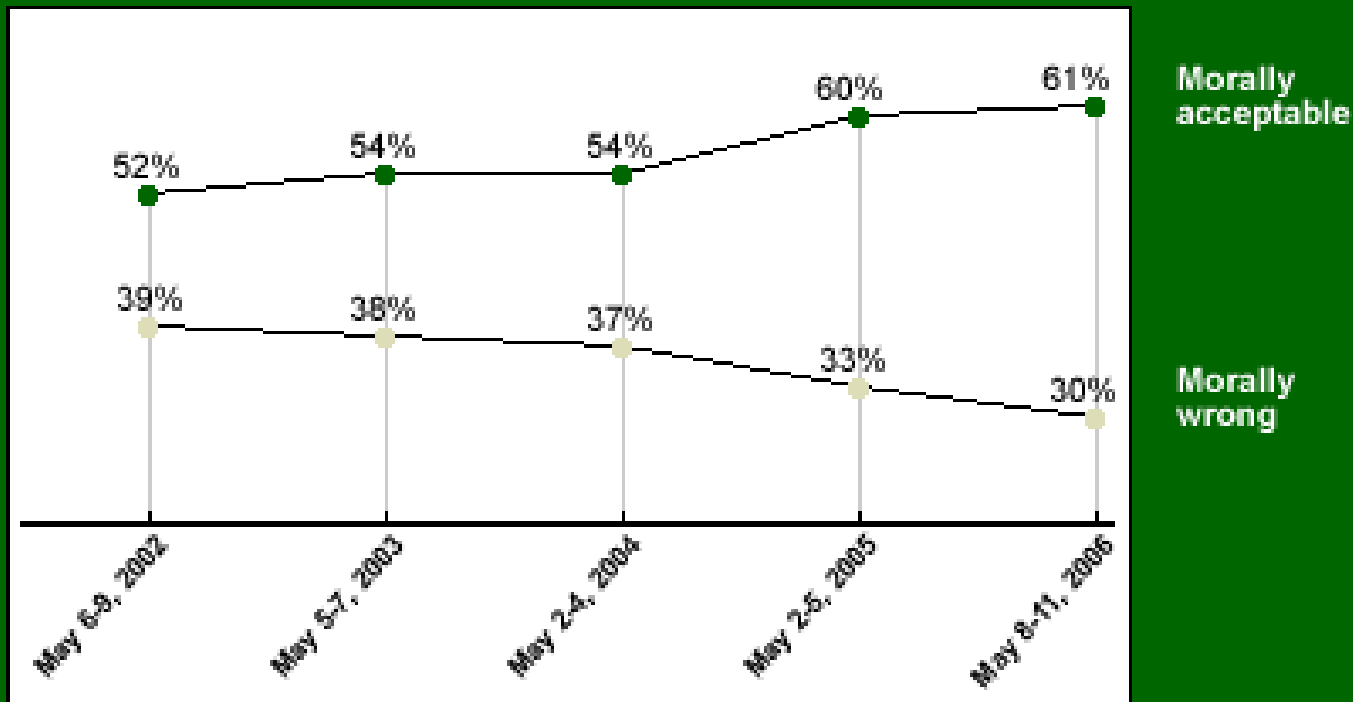
JDRF results (1/01): 65+, 25-, 9?

NCCOB results (6/01): 24+, 70-, 5?

# Moral acceptability – “medical research using stem cell obtained from human embryos”

## 2002-2006

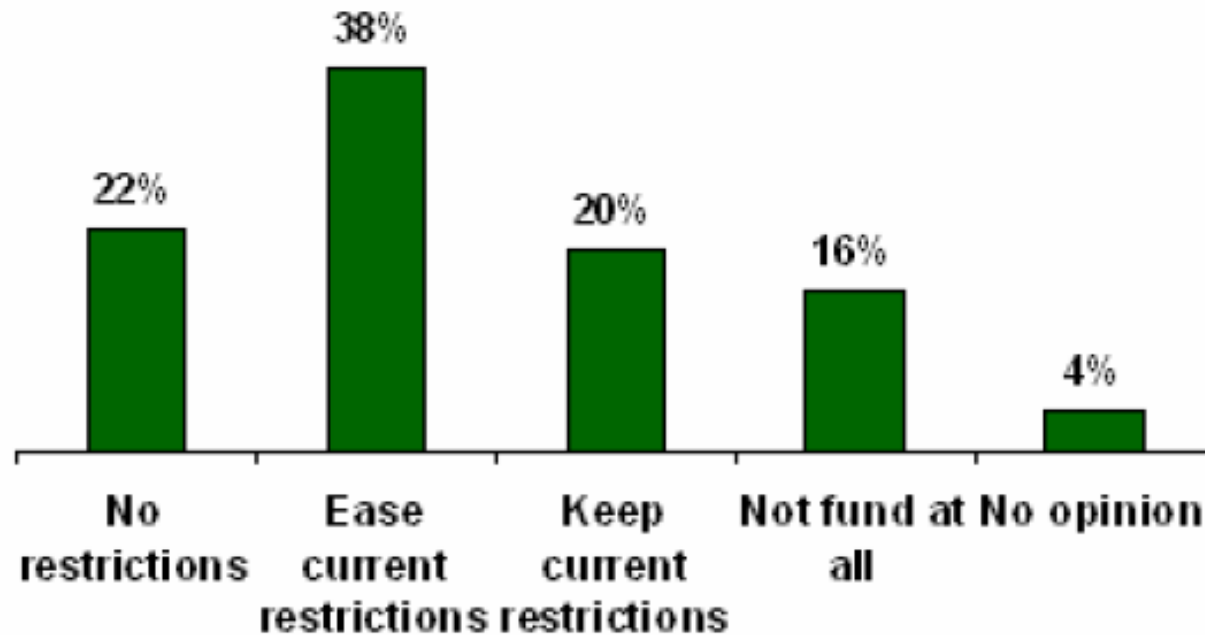
*Next, I'm going to read you a list of issues. Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, for each one, please tell me whether you personally believe that in general it is morally acceptable or morally wrong. How about -- medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos?*



Gallup Poll, 2007

# Embryonic Stem Cell Research, Opinion, April 13-15, 2007

Government Funding of Embryonic Stem Cell Research



April 13-15, 2007

Gallup Poll, 2007

# Performatives, Politics and the Public Representation of Science

# Performatives

## *How to do things with words*

### J.L. Austin (1955/1962)

- Examples: promising, betting, naming, ...
- **Performatives** as expressions are neither true nor false – they *do*.
- Rather than describing a state of affairs, they **create** a state of affairs as a speech act.

# Performatives – a short primer on 'doing things with words'

- Still, performatives can *fail* due to the formal procedure or intent.
- Austin calls such failure an infelicity.
  - The case of **insincerity**, dissimulation.  
(e.g. convicting while knowing innocent)
- A failed performative is hollow, but not without consequence.



# Performatives

## “How to do things with words”

- Definitions in legislation have this *performative* characteristic.

17 **“§ 301. Definitions**

18        “In this chapter:

19           “(1) HUMAN CLONING.—The term ‘human  
20        cloning’ means human asexual reproduction, accom-

- “Of all people, jurists should be best aware of the true state of affairs. Perhaps some now are. Yet they will succumb to their own timorous fiction that a statement of ‘the law’ is a statement of fact.” (Austin)

Doing things with words, or:  
when is a clone a clone?

# Stem Cell Information

The National Institutes of Health resource for stem cell research

[Home](#) > [Info Center](#) > Glossary

<http://stemcells.nih.gov/info/glossary.asp>

**Clone**—Generate identical copies of a molecule, cell, or organism.

1. When it is used to refer to cells grown in a tissue culture dish, a clone is a line of cells that is genetically identical to the originating cell. This cloned line is produced by cell division (mitosis) of the originating cell.
2. The term clone may also be used to refer to an animal produced by [somatic cell nuclear transfer \(SCNT\)](#).

**Cloning**—See [Somatic cell nuclear transfer \(SCNT\)](#).

NIH  
Glossary  
baseline

# Stem Cell Information

The National Institutes of Health resource for stem cell research

[Home](#) > [Info Center](#) > Glossary

<http://stemcells.nih.gov/info/glossary.asp>

## **Somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT)**—

A technique that combines an [enucleated](#) egg (nucleus removed) and the nucleus of a [somatic cell](#) to make an embryo. SCNT is the scientific term for cloning. SCNT can be used for therapeutic or reproductive purposes, but the initial stage that combines an [enucleated](#) egg and a somatic cell nucleus is the same. See also [therapeutic cloning](#) and [reproductive cloning](#).

# Stem Cell Information

The National Institutes of Health resource for stem cell research

[Home](#) > [Info Center](#) > Glossary

<http://stemcells.nih.gov/info/glossary.asp>

**Therapeutic cloning**—The goal of therapeutic cloning is to create cells that exactly match a patient. By combining a patient's [somatic cell](#) nucleus and an [enucleated](#) egg, a scientist may harvest embryonic stem cells from the resulting embryo that can be used to generate tissues that match a patient's body. This means the tissues created are unlikely to be rejected by the patient's immune system. See also [Somatic cell nuclear transfer \(SCNT\)](#).

**Reproductive cloning**—The goal of reproductive cloning is to create an animal being identical to the animal that donated the [somatic cell](#) nucleus. The [embryo](#) is implanted in a uterus and develops into a live being. The first animal to be created by reproductive cloning was Dolly the sheep, born at the Roslin Institute in Scotland in 1996. See also [Somatic cell nuclear transfer \(SCNT\)](#).

ETHICS

# Issues in Oocyte Donation for Stem Cell Research

David Magnus and Mildred K. Cho\*

Therapeutic  
Cloning  
Caveat

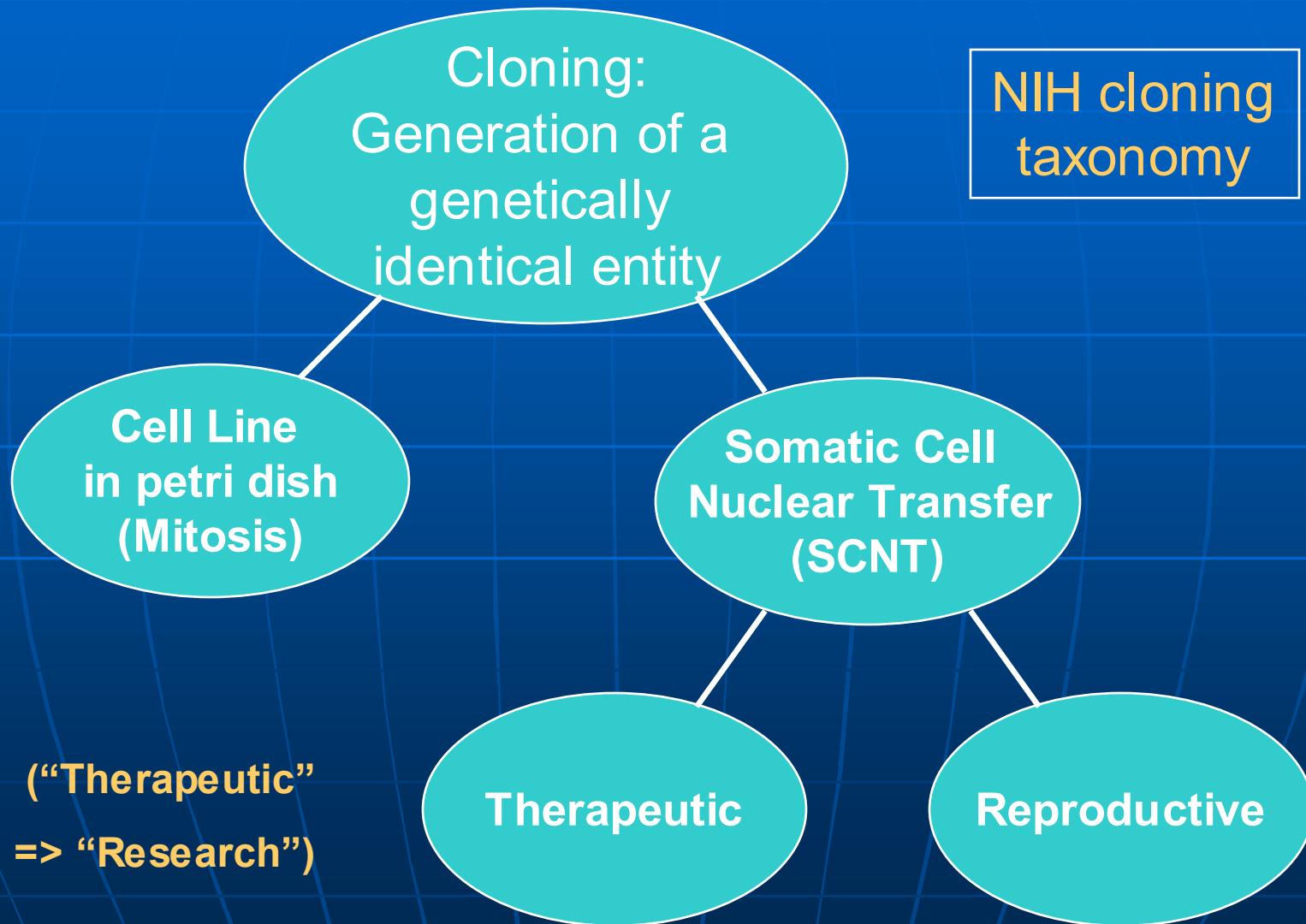
transfer research.” Similarly, it is important not to use the term “therapy” when what is meant is “research” and not to refer to hESC research as “therapeutic cloning.” There is currently no such thing as “therapeutic cloning” and this is not “therapeutic cloning research,” nor can we say with any certainty that “cell therapy” is in the near future.

17 JUNE 2005 VOL 308 SCIENCE

# Stem Cell Information

The National Institutes of Health resource for stem cell research

[Home](#) > [Info Center](#) > Glossary



# Cloning: Legislative / Referenda Performative Definitions

- "Cloning"
- "Human Cloning"
- "Cloning a Human Being"

means . . .



# California: Proposition 71 (November 2, 2004)

## PROPOSED LAW

### CALIFORNIA STEM CELL RESEARCH AND CURES INITIATIVE

*(k) "Human reproductive cloning" means the practice of creating or attempting to create a human being by transferring the nucleus from a human cell into an egg cell from which the nucleus has been removed for the purpose of implanting the resulting product in a uterus to initiate a pregnancy.*

NIH-consistent definition of reproductive cloning

# Missouri

## 2006 Ballot Measure Constitutional Amendment 2

### Stem Cell Initiative

Submitted October 11, 2005

6. As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(2) “Clone or attempt to clone a human being” means to implant in a uterus or attempt to implant in a uterus anything other than the product of fertilization of an egg of a human female by a sperm of a human male for the purpose of initiating a pregnancy that could result in the creation of a human fetus, or the birth of a human being.

**“Clone or attempt to clone a human being” =  
Implantation or attempting to implant in a uterus  
≠ SCNT – Not NIH-consistent**

# New Jersey (NJS 2C:11A-1)

**“As used in this section, ‘cloning of a human being’ means the replication of a human individual by cultivating a cell with genetic material through the egg, embryo, fetal and newborn stages into a new human individual.”**

Not NIH-consistent:

(SCNT + Implantation + Gestation for 9 months ≠ Cloning)

# Minnesota

## S.F. No. 100, 3rd Engrossment - 85th Legislative Session (2007-2008)

1.9           Sec. 2. [145.427] STATE POLICY FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH.

1.10           Subdivision 1. Research use permitted. The policy of the state of Minnesota is  
1.11           that research involving the derivation and use of human embryonic stem cells, human  
1.12           embryonic germ cells, and human adult stem cells from any source, including somatic cell  
1.13           nuclear transplantation, shall be permitted and that full consideration of the ethical and  
1.14           medical implications of this research be given. Research permitted under this section must  
1.15           not include cloning. Research involving the derivation and use of human embryonic stem  
1.16           cells, human embryonic germ cells, and human adult stem cells, including somatic cell  
1.17           nuclear transplantation, shall be reviewed by an approved institutional review board.

# Minnesota

S.F. No. 100, 3rd Engrossment - 85th Legislative Session (2007-2008)

- **“Research permitted under this section must not include cloning. Research involving the derivation and use of human embryonic stem cells, human embryonic germ cells, and human adult stem cells, including somatic cell nuclear transplantation, shall be reviewed by an approved institutional review board.”**

Not NIH-consistent  
(not even self-consistent)

# Federal Examples

## A higher standard?

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 812

To prohibit human cloning and protect stem cell research.

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2007

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. HARKIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

### 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Human Cloning Ban  
5 and Stem Cell Research Protection Act of 2007”.

**Hatch et al.**

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 812

To prohibit human cloning and protect stem cell research.

## 8 “§ 301. Prohibition on human cloning

9 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) HUMAN CLONING.—The term ‘human  
11 cloning’ means implanting or attempting to implant  
12 the product of nuclear transplantation into a uterus  
13 or the functional equivalent of a uterus.

Back to Missouri - Not NIH-consistent:

Cloning = SCNT + Implantation into uterus or equivalent



110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1036

To amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit human cloning.

## Brownback

### IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 2007

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. VOINOVICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

#### 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Human Cloning Prohi-  
5       bition Act of 2007”.

To amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit human cloning.

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) HUMAN CLONING.—The term ‘human  
8 cloning’ means human asexual reproduction, accom-  
9 plished by introducing nuclear material from one or  
10 more human somatic cells into a fertilized or  
11 unfertilized oocyte whose nuclear material has been  
12 removed or inactivated so as to produce a living or-  
13 ganism (at any stage of development) that is geneti-  
14 cally virtually identical to an existing or previously  
15 existing human organism.

**NIH-consistent definition of cloning = SCNT**

# 110<sup>th</sup> Congress – 22 Bills with “cloning” in Thomas.loc.gov search

- 22 hits 13 unique bills (5 HR, 7 Sen.)
- Check for NIH definition consistency x ES \$ attitude
- Consistent: 10 of 13
- ES \$ Neutral & Non-expansive were all consistent 8/8
- \$ Expansive 2, 2, 1

	NIH Cons	NIH NonC	Indef
ES\$ +	2	2	1
ES\$ Neut	2	0	0
Not ES\$ +	6	0	0

**Chi-Square = 9.530, df=4, p=.05**

# Implications

- **Legislative definitions** are a particularly potent site of public (mis)education in the public representation of science. *Lex docet* at the nexus of Politics, Policy, & Public Health.
- **NIH-consistent definitions** are found on pro- and contra-ESC measures – doable.
- **Intentionally** imprecise or misleading (performative) language may have short political utility but long-term policy, public educational and public health disutility.

. . . a statement of 'the law' **should**  
**at least attempt to be** a statement of  
fact

## NEW DEBATE

---

# Human embryo: a biological definition

J.K.Findlay<sup>1,2</sup>, M.L.Gear<sup>1</sup>, P.J.Illingworth<sup>3</sup>, S.M.Junk<sup>1,4</sup>, G.Kay<sup>5</sup>, A.H.Mackerras<sup>1</sup>, A.Pope<sup>6</sup>,  
H.S.Rothenfluh<sup>1,8</sup> and L.Wilton<sup>7</sup>

This paper defines a human embryo from a biological standpoint that takes into account emerging technologies in reproductive science. The paper does not consider legal, moral, religious or social views. As the definition of a human embryo must reflect the multifactorial processes of development, an approach has been adopted which combines recognition of observed events with potential for further development. This acknowledges that fertilization and development are not static processes, and as such embryo status can only be defined by observation of specific markers. The following biological definition of ‘human embryo’ is proposed.

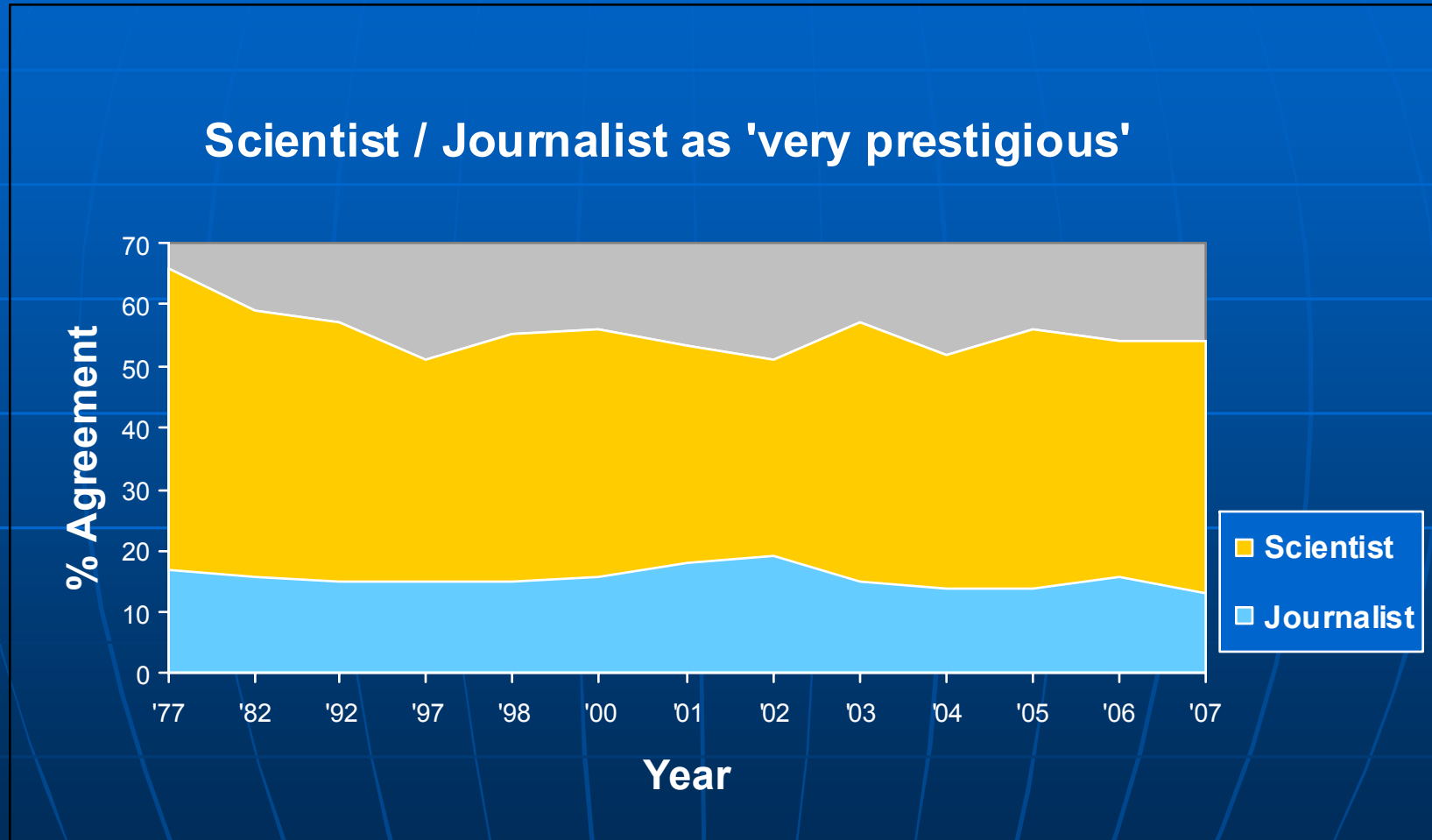
*A human embryo is a discrete entity that has arisen from either:*

- (i) *the first mitotic division when fertilization of a human oocyte by a human sperm is complete or*
- (ii) *any other process that initiates organized development of a biological entity with a human nuclear genome or altered human nuclear genome that has the potential to develop up to, or beyond, the stage at which the primitive streak appears,*

*and has not yet reached 8 weeks of development since the first mitotic division.*

**“The paper does not consider legal, moral, religious or social views.”**

# U.S. Scientist as 'very prestigious' 1977-2007 (-12%)



Source: Harris Poll #77, 29-Year Trend  
August 1, 2007

Altman L. Promises of miracles: news releases go where journals fear to tread; a double standard in reports to the public and the experts. *New York Times*. 1995;10 Jan:B6.

and lower standard: “Scientists rarely make exaggerated claims when reporting their results in the scientific literature because it is poor etiquette and likely to provoke the scorn of their peers . . . [but] news releases are a different matter.”<sup>5</sup> Responsibility for distorted reporting in



## Expert to Public Horizon Problem

- "To start with, people need a fairy tale," said Ronald D.G. McKay, a stem cell researcher at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. "Maybe that's unfair, but they need a story line that's relatively simple to understand."

Rick Weiss, [Stem cells an unlikely therapy for Alzheimers](#). Washington Post, Thursday, June 10, 2004; Page A03

# Bubela (2006) - 'Cycle of Hype'

*Clin Genet* 2006; 70: 445–450  
Printed in Singapore. All rights reserved

© 2006 The Author  
Journal compilation © 2006 Blackwell Munksgaard

CLINICAL GENETICS

doi: 10.1111/j.1399-0004.2006.00693.x

## Genetic Diversity and Science Communication

Science communication in transition:  
genomics hype, public engagement,  
education and commercialization pressures

Bubela T. Science communication in transition: genomics hype, public engagement, education and commercialization pressures.  
*Clin Genet* 2006; 70: 445–450. © Blackwell Munksgaard, 2006

**T Bubela**

School of Business, University of Alberta,  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

## Timelines / Result Expectations

# Bubela (2006)

## "Cycle of Hype" (Caulfield)

Actors:

- **Primary:** Scientists → Media → Public
    - Demand Curves: Funding, Stories, Cures
  - **Secondary:** \*SS, Industry, Politicians
    - Demand Curves: \$/Acad, \$, Votes
- \* Social Sci. Currency: Ethical and Social Risk

# Do the print media “hype” genetic research? A comparison of newspaper stories and peer-reviewed research papers

*CMAJ* 2004;170(9):1399-407

Tania M. Bubela, Timothy A. Caulfield

↗ See related article page 1415

627 news articles re 111 sci. papers

- 63% News reports - no exaggeration
- 26% Slight
- 11% Moderate to high exaggeration
- Benefit likelihood: 98% News, 99% Papers
- Risk/Cost: 15% News, 5% sci. papers

# California Proposition 71 (2004)

## **"CALIFORNIA STEM CELLS RESEARCH AND CURES INITIATIVE"**

- Constitutional referendum
- 10 years, \$3B funding (state bonds)
- Patient advocacy groups called "integral" and "essential" to the effort from the beginning

# The promise of miracles? Proposition 71

## California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative

“Medical researchers believe stem cell research could lead to “treatments and cures for many diseases and injuries including:

**Cancer, heart disease, Alzheimers, Parkinson’s, HIV / AIDS, multiple sclerosis, lung disease and spinal injuries.**

**Alan D. Cherrington, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Molecular Physiology & Biophysics  
Charles H. Best Professor of Diabetes Research  
Department Chair  
Professor of Medicine  
Vanderbilt University

# OFFICIAL VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

CALIFORNIA GENERAL ELECTION

NOVEMBER 2, 2004

PROP  
71

STEM CELL RESEARCH FUNDING BONDS.  
INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE.

## ARGUMENT in Favor of Proposition 71

PROPOSITION 71 IS ABOUT CURING DISEASES AND SAVING LIVES.

Stem cells are unique cells that generate healthy new cells, tissues, and organs. Medical researchers believe stem cell research could lead to treatments and cures for many diseases and injuries, including:

Cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis, lung diseases, and spinal injuries.

*Prop. 71 also prohibits any funding for cloning to create babies, reinforcing existing state law banning human reproductive cloning. It’s totally focused on finding medical cures.*

Vote YES on 71—IT COULD SAVE THE LIFE OF SOMEONE YOU LOVE.

ALAN D. CHERRINGTON, Ph.D., *President*

*American Diabetes Association*

CAROLYN ALDIGE, *President*

*National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR)*

JOAN SAMUELSON, *President*

*Parkinson’s Action Network*

*(k) “Human reproductive cloning” means the practice of creating or attempting to create a human being by transferring the nucleus from a human cell into an egg cell from which the nucleus has been removed for the purpose of implanting the resulting product in a uterus to initiate a pregnancy.*

*Arguments printed on this page are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any official agency.*

# Proposition 71 passes 59% to 41%



## About CIRM

---

The **California Institute for Regenerative Medicine** ("The Institute" or "**CIRM**") was established in early 2005 with the passage of Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative. The statewide ballot measure, which provided \$3 billion in funding for stem cell research at California universities and research institutions, was approved by California voters on November 2, 2004, and called for the establishment of a new state agency to make grants and provide loans for stem cell research, research facilities and other vital research opportunities.

The **Independent Citizens Oversight Committee** ("**ICOC**") is the 29-member governing board for the Institute. The ICOC members are public officials, appointed on the basis of their experience earned in California's leading public universities, non-profit academic and research institutions, patient advocacy groups and the biotechnology industry.

# California Institute of Regenerative Medicine



# CIRM - Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (N=29)

- Incl. 10 disease group advocacy reps.

- Spinal cord injury
- Alzheimers
- MS or ALS
- Type I Diabetes
- Type II Diabetes

- Heart
- Cancer
- Parkinsons
- Mental Health
- HIV/AIDS

Source: Official Voter Information Guide. California General Election 2004. Text of Proposed Laws, Proposition 71, p. 148.

# CIRM Scientific and Medical Research Funding Group (N=23)

- 1 Chair (CIRM Chair)
- 15 Scientists
- 7 of 10 disease advocacy representatives

**Source: Official Voter Information Guide. California General Election 2004. Text of Proposed Laws, Proposition 71, p. 151.**

# CIRM 10-year Strategic Goal

1 Phase II clinical trial for 1 embryonic stem cell derived therapy by the end of 10 years.

Zach Hall, PhD, founding president of CIRM, "Stem Cell Research: At the Intersection of Science, Politics, Law, and Culture" (University of Minnesota, October 9, 2007)

# Response to CIRM Strategic Goal

Some patient advocacy representatives on CIRM committees "felt betrayed" stating "you are taking away our hope."

Zach Hall, PhD, founding president of CIRM, "Stem Cell Research: At the Intersection of Science, Politics, Law, and Culture" (University of Minnesota, October 9, 2007)

# Why or how 'betrayed'?

- Patient advocacy groups were described as "integral" from the beginning and "essential" to Proposition 71 success
- => Did the research timeline become apparent (to scientists) only after Prop 71 passed?

# Current disease treatments or trials with stem cells [...?]

## ■ Adult Stem Cells

## Embryonic SC

### Cancers:

Do No Harm: The Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics

- Brain Cancer
- Retinoblastoma
- Ovarian Cancer
- Skin Cancer: Merkel Cell Carcinoma
- Testicular Cancer
- Tumors abdominal organs Lymphoma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
- Acute Myelogenous Leukemia
- Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia
- Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukemia

<http://www.stemcellresearch.org/facts/treatments.htm>

“The ethical and political controversy surrounding embryonic stem cell research makes scientific claims especially **prone to exaggeration or distortion**. All such claims should receive careful scrutiny...”

—Prentice and Tarne

19 JANUARY 2007 VOL 315 SCIENCE www.sciencemag.org

“By promoting the falsehood that adult stem cell treatments are already in general use for 65 diseases and injuries, Prentice and those who repeat **his claims mislead laypeople and cruelly deceive patients**”

—Smith *et al.*

SHANE SMITH,<sup>1</sup> WILLIAM NEAVES,<sup>2\*</sup> STEVEN TEITELBAUM<sup>3</sup> Publisher

www.sciencemag.org SCIENCE VOL 313 28 JULY 2006

*Science* 8 June 2007:  
Vol. 316, no. 5830, pp. 1422 - 1423  
DOI: 10.1126/science.316.5830.1422b

## LETTERS

### Adult Versus Embryonic Stem Cells: Treatments

D. A. Prentice and G. Tarne used their letter "Treating diseases with adult stem cells" (19 Jan., p. [328](#)) to try to defend Prentice's previous claim that "over 65 human diseases" have been "effectively treated through adult stem cells" ([1](#)). Now Prentice and Tarne say that what he really meant was that adult stem cell treatments for 65 diseases are being tested for possible efficacy.

## Response

In none of these studies do the authors state merely that they are about to "test" whether adult stem cells may benefit patients or that they have begun "enrollment" in clinical trials. Rather, all these studies (including those on breast cancer and heart damage) are reports of completed trials in which patients with these conditions benefited.

Et tu, 70 &  
Alzheimers

# A partial reparative

A taxonomy of commitments incumbent upon scientists and other professionals articulating public representations of science.



# Commitments

## ■ Ethic of Probity

- Sober estimation of future prospects, uncertainties

## ■ Ethic of Transparency

- Gradient between what is admitted to 'over a beer' vs. before the camera
- Expert obligation to correct misinformation - also when misinformation (e.g. hype) serves outcome interest

# Commitments

## ■ Ethic of Translation

- Commitment to decrease the asymmetry of knowledge between expert and lay public (and thereby the power differential).



**"Diogenes, Having Failed in his Search for an Honest Man, Finds Some Stoic Dogs" - Jean-Léon Gérôme, 1860**

# Framing Science: The Stem Cell Controversy in an Age of Press/Politics

Matthew C. Nisbet, Dominique Brossard and Adrienne Kroepsch

*The Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics* 2003; 8; 36

- **Agenda-building activity ~ stem cell research stages**
- **Media attention variation ~ agenda building activity**
- **Media attention variation ~ policy arena**

*Research Question 1*: What was the level of agenda-building activity related to stem cell research across its stages of development?

*Research Question 2*: How did media attention to stem cell research vary in relation to this underlying agenda-building process?

*Research Question 3*: How did media attention to stem cell research vary in relation to the policy arena in which debate took place?

# Nisbet, Brossard, Kroepsch (2003), cont'd

**Bone Marrow**  
1975

**Embryo Ban**  
1995

**Discovery**  
1998

**Controversy**  
2001

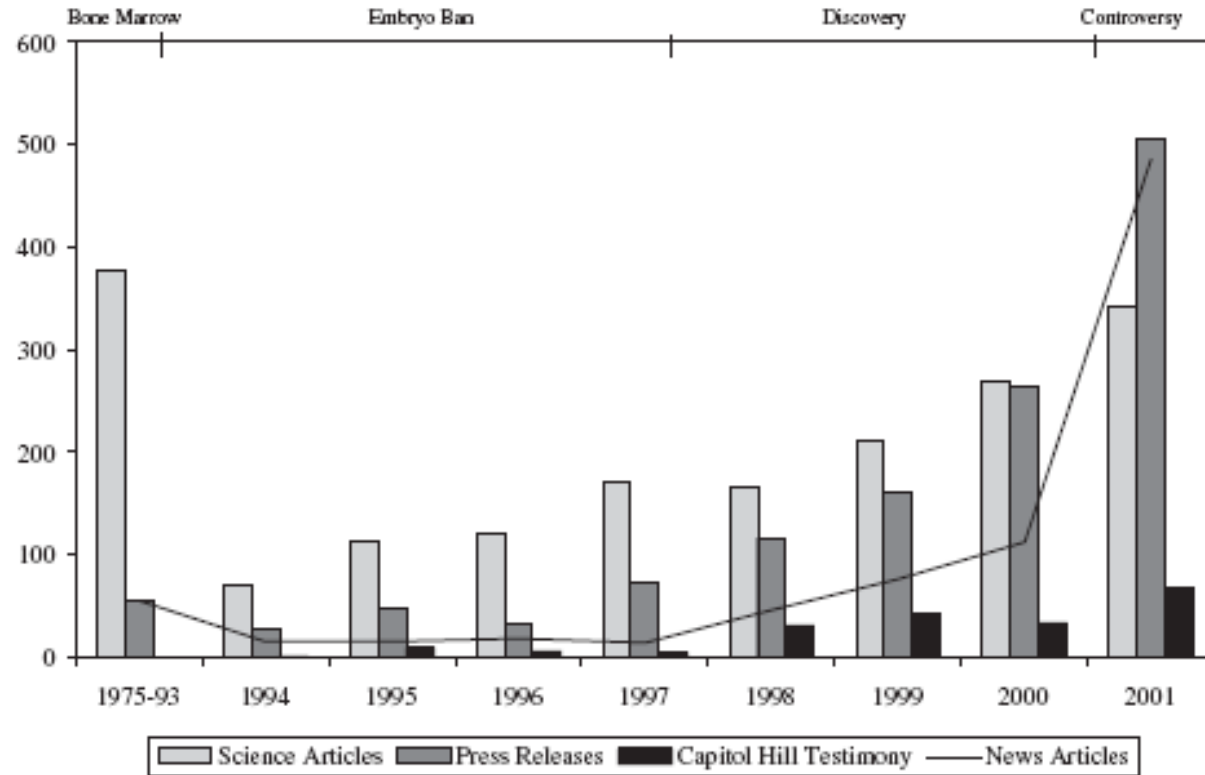
Science Articles

Press Releases

Capitol Hill Testimony

News Articles

52 *Press/Politics* 8(2) Spring 2003



**Figure 1**

Agenda-Building Indicators and Media Attention across Stages of Development

Cont'd

Bone Marrow

Embryo  
Ban

Discovery

Controversy

Stem Cell Source	1975-93 n=55	1994-97 n=62	1998-01 n=234	2001 n=486
None	12.1	13.2	19.2	18.2
Embryo, Cloned E	1.4	11.8	52.8	74.7
Adult SC	10.3	14.2	9.4	12.9
Bone Mar, Blood	58.6	47.1	21.9	8.3
Fetal	6.9	4.4	4.5	3.6
Neural	1.4	4.4	7.5	3.4
Umbilical Cord BI	8.6	17.6	4.5	2.4
Animal	17.2	23.5	10.2	6.1

# Cryopreserved embryos in the United States and their availability for research

2003

Fertil Steril. 2003 May;79(5):1063-9.

David I. Hoffman, M.D.,<sup>a</sup> Gail L. Zellman, Ph.D.,<sup>b</sup> C. Christine Fair, M.A.,<sup>b</sup>  
Jacob F. Mayer, Ph.D.,<sup>c</sup> Joyce G. Zeitz, B.Sc.,<sup>d</sup> William E. Gibbons, M.D.,<sup>c</sup> and  
Thomas G. Turner, Jr., M.S.<sup>e</sup>

*In association with The Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) and RAND*

**Objective:** To determine the number of embryos stored at assisted reproductive technology (ART) clinics in the United States and their current disposition.

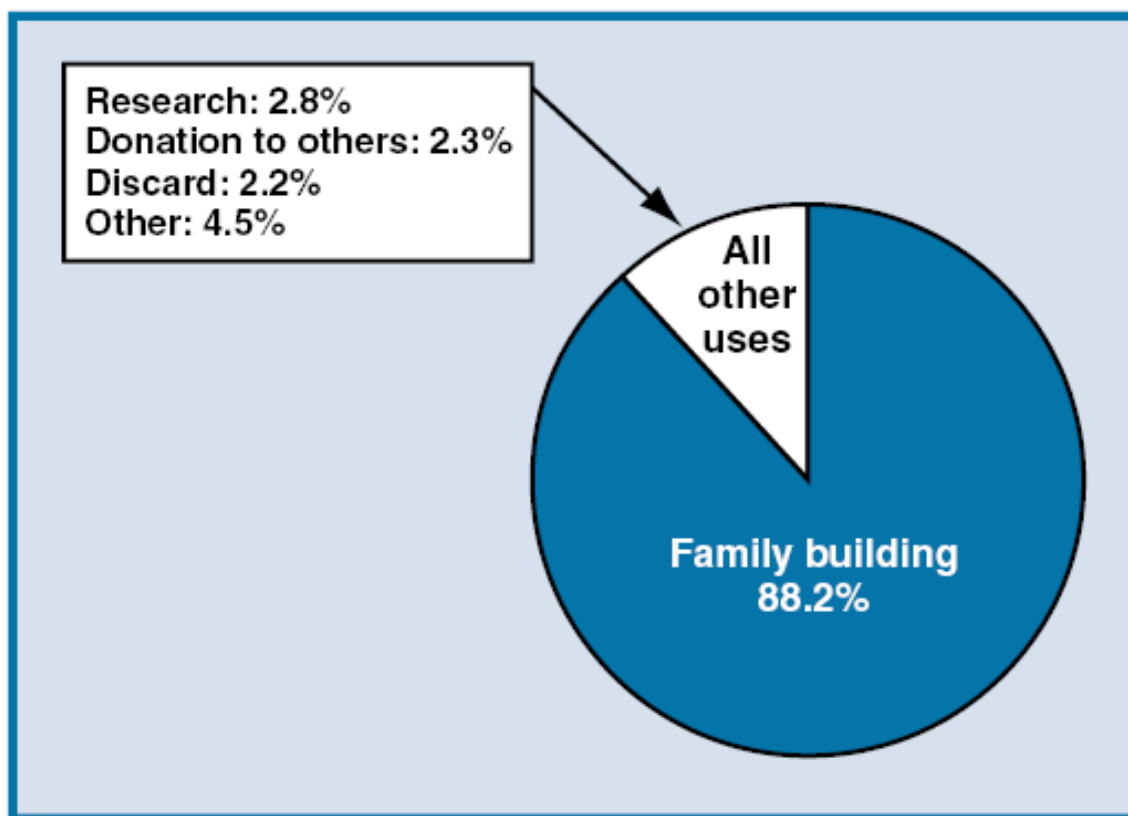
**Design:** A targeted survey instrument sent by the SART–RAND team to all medical practices providing in vitro fertilization services in the United States.

**Result(s):** The SART–RAND team surveyed all 430 ART practices in the United States. Of these practices, 340 returned surveys for analysis. The data from these surveys were merged with data taken from the 1999 SART dataset, which contains information about practice size and success rates. Responding clinics reported a total of 396,526 embryos in storage as of April 11, 2002. The vast majority of the embryos (88.2%) were targeted for patient use. Small numbers of embryos were available for research, donation, destruction, quality assurance, or other uses.

**Conclusion(s):** Nearly 400,000 embryos are stored in the United States, the majority of which (88.2%) are targeted for patient use. Few are available for research (2.8%), limiting possible conversion into embryonic stem cell lines. (Fertil Steril® 2003;79:1063–9. ©2003 by American Society for Reproductive Medicine.)

**Key Words:** IVF, ART, cryopreserved embryos, cryopreservation, stem cells

## How Many Frozen Human Embryos Are Available for Research?



**Designated Use of Frozen Embryos in the United States as of April 2002**



# Media Check on Reporting re Hoffman

- Nexus/Lexus Search Terms:

Embryo, RAND, 400,000 -News All  
(English Full Text, last 5 years)

- 82 hits (5/8/03–7/30/07)
- 58 unique

## Reporting re Hoffman (2003-07) Fairly Consistent Years 1-3

Year	<b>2.8%</b> <b>Resrch</b>	2.3% Adopt.	2.2% Disc.	1% QC	SCL% 275
All	77	30	30	9	25
(11) 1	82	55	73	27	18
(6) 2	100	17	17	0	50
(21) 3	95	40	30	10	20
(15) 4	53	7	7	0	27
(4) 5	25	0	0	0	25

% reflects citation attempts – lower accurate citation; +/- no sig. differences

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DOI: 10.1126/science.1145067

Lyerly, Faden (2007)

POLICY FORUM

EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS:

**Willingness to Donate Frozen Embryos for Stem Cell Research**

Anne Drapkin Lyerly<sup>1\*</sup> and Ruth R. Faden<sup>2</sup>

- Query patient (not clinic) attitude
- CA, CO, DC, MI, MO, NJ, NC, OR, VA
- N=2210, R=1244 (1025 w/ embryos)

Originally published in *Science Express* on 21 June 2007  
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Lyerly, Faden (2007)

EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS:

**Willingness to Donate Frozen Embryos for Stem Cell Research**

Anne Drapkin Lyerly<sup>1\*</sup> and Ruth R. Faden<sup>2</sup>

- “Somewhat or Very Likely” to donate to
  - 22% Adoptive Couple / ~ Discard
  - 28% Nonreproductive Cloning
  - 49% Medical Science
  - 60% Stem Cell Research
- Upper potential of 2000-3000 US stem cell lines vs. Hoffman 275