

28 September 2006



The Committee Secretary

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find below my submission in relation to proposals to implement the recommendations of the Lockhart Report on human cloning.

Use of embryonic stem cells for research purposes is unethical and unnecessary. How much more then is the deliberate production of human embryos so that they can be destroyed in research programmes (which is what, in effect, so-called 'therapeutic cloning' is about)? Human beings, at every stage, are to be respected, and are not commodities, to be used as research fodder. The latter smacks of the rightly condemned human experimentation carried out by the Nazis during the Second World War.

When adult stem cell therapies are being used extensively today in treating diseases, and reportedly all successful scientific developments have so far being achieved by using stem cells from the patient's own tissues, why is there even a suggestion that we need to pursue a path (destruction of human embryos created solely for that purpose) which raises many ethical questions about the value of life, and our respect and care for other human beings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V Salkin".

Vicki Salkin
Lawyer