

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this submission on cloning and embryonic stem cell research for your consideration.

There is no ethical problem with adult stem cell research, however, embryonic stem cell research requires the death of the embryo. **It should be noted that the only benefits thus far have come from adult stem cell research, NOT embryonic stem cells.** The facts are that all of the medical breakthroughs which have been made recently have come through the use of adult stem cells. Approximately 70 human conditions are now treated by adult stem cell technology. As a contrast, embryonic stem cells have proved to be very prone to form cancerous tumours. Embryonic stem cells are much less controllable than adult stem cells, and so potentially much less useful, even if their use were ethical. Monique Baldwin, whose doctorate is in neuroscience, has written 'To date embryonic stem cells have not demonstrated any therapeutic benefit to anyone.' This can be contrasted with some 45,000 patients who benefit from adult stem cell transplants every year.

The Lockhart Review drew on the work of Professor Hwang Woo Suk in South Korea. Soon after the Lockhart Report was finalised, it emerged that Professor Hwang's work was fabricated and utterly fraudulent. The Lockhart Report argues that the death of the embryo is worth it, in order to achieve possible benefits for others. The same kind of philosophy could be applied to unborn children at any stage in the womb or indeed to people who are sick or infirm or aged. We can never justify killing for the benefit of others. Good science is ethical science

The Lockhart Report's contention that human beings should be allowed to be created and destroyed for the sake of other human beings. In 1946-1947 Dr Leo Alexander was involved in the Nuremberg investigation into Nazi war crimes. He examined the medical experiments, and the killing of some 275,000 'defectives', and wondered how such events could have been allowed to happen. He concluded that it started with the widespread acceptance of the attitude that there is such a thing as a life not worthy to be lived. His warning is still compelling some sixty years later: 'Corrosion begins in microscopic proportions.'⁶

Yours sincerely,
David Roberts