

Submission on Cloning Bills introduced by Senators Patterson and Senator Stott Despoja

Endeavour Forum Inc. requests the Senate to reject both Bills

- * The manufacture of an embryo by Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) is cloning even though its proponents try to pretend it is not and no sperm is used.
- * Although it has not yet been achieved in humans, a cloned human embryo is human life, just as Dolly was a sheep, not merely a "potential" sheep.
- * Extracting stem cells (Embryonic Stem Cells - ESCs) from an embryo, whether cloned or IVF, destroys human life, not merely "potential" human life.
- * ESCs are unnecessary as Adult Stem Cells (ASCs) are being used in the treatment of 70 different diseases or disabilities, while ESCs are used in none.
- * ESCs are harmful, their very "totipotency", i.e. ability to form different types of tissues results in tumours.
- * ESCs require exploitation of women to obtain thousands of eggs.
- * New technologies are emerging which will make cloning and experimentation on embryos obsolete e.g. technology in Japan enabling ASCs to be more versatile, and the potential of stem cells from plants.
- * Private venture capital is not investing in ESCs - the "market" is telling the truth. Taxpayers' or university money invested in ESCs takes money away from ASCs which ARE producing the cures and treatments. The time and energy of scientists is also wasted in pursuing ESC technology when ASC cures and treatments require their research talents.
- * The argument that Australia's ban on cloning has held back cures for Alzheimers, motor neurone and Huntingtons diseases is false because even in countries such as Singapore and the UK where there is no ban, there is not a single cure, treatment or even clinical trial using ESCs.
- * The promotion of ESCs has been bedevilled by fraud and false claims, e.g Dr. Hwang in Korea, Advanced Cell Technology in the USA and the fraudulent claims in Australia that ESCs will provide cures for Alzheimers, diabetes, Parkinsons, spinal cord injury. The very nature of these frauds indicates that the technology is suspect and that the proponents of cloning do not have truth or real science on their side.
- * The recommendation that animal-human hybrid embryos be manufactured is an affront to human dignity and a degrading assault on human life.

For these reasons Endeavour Forum Inc. strongly recommends that both Bills be rejected and that government investment be in ASC research.

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