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Community Affairs Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee,

**RE: Response to the Lockhart review of the Prohibition of Human Cloning Act 2002 and the Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002.**

The Lockhart Committee has made some recommendations (17, 22, 23 and 24) that do not appear to be based on sound scientific or ethical principles.

Scientifically, the full human genetic complement is present in that of an embryo resulting from the fertilization of an ovum, by a sperm. A clone, by somatic cell nuclear transfer or any other technique, is exactly another embryo with the same genetic complement as it's parent/sibling cell – it is human in its full genetic sense.

Ethically, it is immoral, regardless whether it is legal or not, to produce human embryos for research, therapeutic or reproductive uses.

Scientifically, embryonic stem cells previously touted as providing the mechanism of curative treatments, have now been relegated by those very same 'embryonic' scientists to limited disease specific research and drug testing. Conversely, pluripotent adult stem cells have been used beneficially in human patients, in 72 specific diseases to provide treatments or cures (1). In scientific circles we await the clarity that Evidence Based Medicine will provide to adult stem cell progress, whilst the fraud and exploitation perpetrated by notable embryonic stem cell researchers is undeniably laughable.

Ethically, we are challenged by the obvious commodification of human life, the resultant exploitation of women (and shareholders) and the insatiable hunger to develop 'foetal farming'. Interspecies fertilization and animal oocytes are proposed for use, to minimise the exploitation of women! Where are we heading with all this?

We are in a time where we have completed the human genome project and are beginning to understand the molecular biology and biochemistry of genetic polymorphisms. We have overlooked the wonder of our achievements along with our very own creation and existence, as we ludicrously dive back into the muddied scientific and ethical waters of embryonic stem cell science.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Luke McLindon  
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1. <http://www.stemcellresearch.org/facts/asc-refs.pdf>