

# Stem cell research



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Stem Cell Research Issue: Stem Cells Research involving most types of stem cells, such as those derived from adult tissues and umbilical cord blood, has been instrumental in breakthrough in curing many disabling disorders. Stem cells can be used as regenerative medicine as they replace and restore cellular functions of cells that have atrophied or have been lost entirely.

Currently, no research on human embryos can be supported with federal funds because of the controversial origins of these cells (Gerald D.

Fischbach, 2004). The root of the argument lies around embryonic stem cells, which enable research that may support the development of medical treatments, but requires the destruction of an embryo to derive. Different perspectives: There are different opinions to the argument whether stem cell research should be encouraged or not. Many religious and pro-life organizations have voiced ethical concerns regarding the intentional killing of a defenseless human life (2 week-old embryo) for the possible benefits of others. Other ethical dilemmas concerning this research are the use/disposal of surplus stem cells, the use of cloning in obtaining stem cells and the fact that a potential life is created for research or therapeutic purposes.

Scientists and researchers see stem cell research as an answer to help all those suffering from chronic, degenerative and acute diseases such as Type-1 Diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease and Cancer amongst others (Erin Williams, 2006). My Opinion: Having studied the different ethical and scientific perspectives on stem cell research, I believe that the research has tremendous potential to relieve the sufferings of thousands if not millions of people. If research is undertaken within the bounds of law (looking into the purpose of embryo creation, egg procurement etc), the pursuit will help scientists understand the biology behind current incurable diseases and

hence save many important lives. Works Cited Erin Williams, J. J. (2006).

Stem Cell Research: Ethical Issues. Washington DC: Congressional Research Service . Gerald D. Fischbach, R. L. (2004). Stem cells: science, policy, and ethics. *J Clin Invest* , 114 (10), 1364-1370.