



# PRO

BY CONNIE LIU

Since the discovery of stem cell research nearly a decade ago, controversy has erupted across the globe about the morality of the situation at hand. To create these stem cells that would have the potential to cure seemingly incurable diseases, it would be vital to draw unborn embryos. Research still needs to be performed on this new world cure-all, but is it worth the sacrifice of unborn babies to follow the line of investigation?

Though deep controversy has sprouted up about this topic, it can be asserted that such research is perfectly moral. Hundreds of abortions are performed every week, so instead of discarding the unwanted embryo, it is completely practical to instead use them to better benefit the rest of the world. Additionally, if the right to abortion is approved of and is held as morally correct by many, there is no question that stem cell research should go on too. As the right to abortion is already in place within our society, we must take advantage of this right, and get the most out of what we have, which is primarily achieved through stem cell research. The benefits of stem cell therapy are beyond any we have today and must be cherished as a gift and built upon instead of thrown away like useless trash. This pursuit has the potential to cure cancer or to replace damaged limbs, and in turn gives these otherwise doomed embryos a chance to make a world of difference. Although a sacrifice might be made, the cost-benefit analysis points out that stem cell research is a worthy endeavor.

Our devotion should be unwaveringly allocated to those already alive. These people with terminal illnesses are suffering after paying their due and benefiting the world. Their life has begun undeniably and we cannot take this away from them without the least effort to save their dying spirit and body. We cannot stand idle on the sidelines as people die every day and families and friends are crushed by

the shattering news. The impact a living, breathing, walking person has had on the world around him or her is enough to pursue this research in order to preserve this entity and all influenced by it to live another carefree, joyful day on planet Earth. The sacrifice of a few unused embryos that would likewise be discarded of is a small price to pay to avoid this intense trauma and ruthless murder through inaction of a helpless human being.

Additionally, human embryos would only be used presently to jumpstart human knowledge of stem cell research. Studies already indicated that stem cells have been found in our bone marrow. It has been proven that bone marrow transplants are virtually harmless and with enough research and funding, we may advance into a world where those who are currently doomed to die may have a second chance. Over 100 million Americans suffer from diseases that would be guaranteed to be treated more effectively or even all together cured by stem cell therapy. We must pursue this golden chance in order to save those from the mortification of a terminal friend or family member. Once scientists are able to use this alternative form of stem cells, the moral controversy surrounding this issue may as well evaporate. Scientists should be encouraged to pursue stem cell research to help those in dire need of the technology. This could easily be our first viable cancer treatment, and this would greatly benefit the millions around the world. The futuristic idea of regeneration of limbs will become plausible in a world undergoing a need for such research.

This stem cell technology has the potential to cure the world and get one step closer to making our bodies virtually immune to all viruses and bacteria. The numbing shock of finding a family member or friend to be inflicted with a life-threatening disease can be the most devastating feeling in the world. We must prevent such a catastrophe and continue our research to make applications of stem cell technology ubiquitous.



PHOTOS BY AMANDA YUAN

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BY MARCI ROSENBERG

Embryonic stem cells are cells that have been removed from the blastocyst, the inner cell mass of a developing embryo. Scientists have been using such embryonic stem cells in their research under the pretense that they hold potential cures for an infinite variety of severely debilitating diseases, such as Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, diabetes, cancer, and many more.

There is no question that embryonic stem cell research could potentially further scientific knowledge, but there are harrowing questions of its ethics and usefulness in light of other venues of research, in modern-day society.

Would it be morally ethical to arbitrarily, without consent, kill someone who is afflicted with Type 1 diabetes in order to learn more about the effects of the disease on the body? The answer would be a resounding no. The scientific society accepts that it is not okay to end this diabetic's life in order to satisfy their curiosity, or even more nobly, their hope for a cure. Just because a method exists doesn't mean the method should be used. Society could, this very instant, kill Magic Johnson in order to (hopefully) discover his body's secret behind his unbelievable long-term survival in the face of the HIV virus. If his secret was discovered, it could help millions of people in unimaginable ways. However, there is a pervading sense of conscience that holds society back from pursuing such a heinous deed.

When a scientific researcher decides to put a sperm and egg cell together, he creates the beginnings of life—it is undeniable. When that same scientific researcher removed the stem cells of this innocent life, they murdered a life that never consented to its destruction, a life that may have grown up and cured cancer, solved the energy crisis, saved the world.

There have been constant arguments over the definition of what qualifies as "life." It is, however,

repetitive and tiresome to snipe back and forth over the "definition" of life. Could an apple seed grow into anything other than an apple? Could a baby shark grow into anything other than a shark? The beginnings of life was created when a sperm and egg cell were put together, and if left unattended in normal circumstances, this sperm and egg cell would grow into a beautiful, rosy-cheeked baby boy or girl. If at any point after the sperm and egg cell have been united, that mass of cells is destroyed, the beginning of a life is destroyed as well.

However, the debate over the definition of what qualifies as life can get, understandably, controversial. There's a way to skirt this controversy altogether: adult stem cells. In fact, embryonic stem cells, to this day, have produced no cures for any of the debilitating disease that they are supposed to be fixing and eradicating left and right. There was so much hype over embryonic stem cell research but there have been no results. Even if there were no severe ethical qualms, why should the government continue to fund a venue of research that has produced nothing that's useable for society? Adult stem cells, on the other hand, have already been used to successfully cure many awful diseases. For example, adult stems cells have already been successfully used to help patients with cardiac infarction, death of some of the heart tissue. In light of the fact that embryonic stem cell research has serious moral qualms, has produced no results, and is eclipsed by a far better alternative that is controversy-free, it seems the decision is clear. Embryonic stem cell research is unethical, unhelpful, and has stirred too many passionate fights that have ended with friendships broken, partnerships lost. It is time for a change.