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Sept. 2, 2016

Office of Science Policy
The National Institutes of Health
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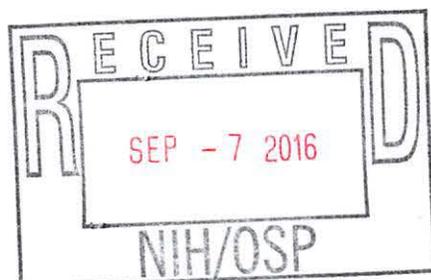
Re: **Notice Number:** NOT-OD-16-128 Human - Animal Chimera Research

I am appalled at the NIH's proposal to rescind its moratorium on funding of research involving human-animal chimeras. It is unimaginable to me that our country has reached the point where the main federal agency involved in health research would even consider funding grossly unethical research involving the creation and manipulation of part-human, part-animal beings whose very existence blurs the line between humans and non-human animals.

This proposed research raises all the ethical problems of human embryonic stem cell research in general, i.e., it relies on the killing of humans at the embryonic stage to harvest their stem cells, and adds in the other very grave problems related to the creation of human-animal beings with partly or substantially human brains and/or human gametes.

I do not understand why the NIH has apparently made little effort to bring such an extremely far-reaching ethical possibility to the attention of the larger media forum with plenty of time for its weighty ethical implications to be explored and scrutinized by the larger public. Creation of part-human part-animal beings is of huge concern to more than the limited readers of these public comments.

With deep concern I strongly urge you to never allow the funding of research involving the creation and manipulation of human-animal chimeras.



Sincerely,

Andrew J. Balash