August 31, 2016

Office of Science Policy NIH Comments
National Institutes of Health
6705 Rockledge Drive Suite 750
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

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BY: NIH/OSP

Dear Office of Science Policy Comments:

I strongly object to the NIH's proposal to rescind its moratorium on funding of research involving human-animal chimeras. I do not want my tax dollars being used for 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 and serious additional problems related to the creation of human-animal beings with partly or substantially human brains and/or human gametes.

I also strongly object to the NIH's apparent lack of consideration for the ethical issues implicated by this research. The NIH pledged to "undertake a deliberative process to evaluate the state of the science in this

area, the ethical issues that should be considered, and the relevant animal welfare concerns associated with these types of studies" when the moratorium was put in place in 2015. To date, there is no evidence of any discussion of the ethical issues involved in creating partly human animals. At a minimum, the NIH should give far more consideration to the significant ethical problems associated with this research before seeking to fund human-animal chimera research.

I strongly urge you to maintain the current moratorium on funding research involving the creation and manipulation of human-animal chimeras.

Sincerely,

Barbara Uhl
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St. Louis, Missouri 63129

BARBARA UHL