

82 Elm St.

Geneva, OH 44041
Sept. 2, 2016

Office of Science Policy
The National Institutes of Health
6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750
Bethesda, MD 20892

Re: **Notice Number:** NOT-OD-16-128 Human - Animal Chimera Research

I am horrified 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 it will actually use our tax money to fund 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 carry out its intention to think out the grave ethical issues which the creation of part-human part-animal beings would present and publish the results of such reflections to the public with plenty of time for rational deliberations.

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

Sincerely,



Beverly Kay Balash

