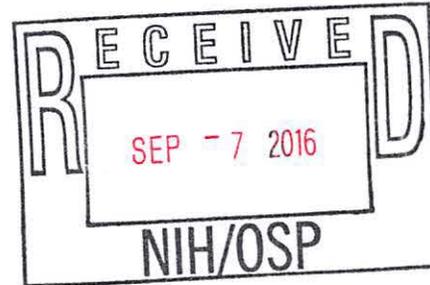


Office of Science Policy NIH Comments
National Institutes of Health
6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750
Bethesda, MD 20892



To Whom It May Concern:

I strenuously oppose the National Institutes of Health proposal to rescind its moratorium on funding to create 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. Manufacturing creatures with partial or substantial human brains or gametes compounds the already-disturbing ethical problems associated with embryonic stem cell research (ESCR), which requires the creation and destruction of tiny, helpless human beings.

I also strongly object to the fact that NIH has apparently ignored its pledge to "undertake a deliberate process to evaluate...the ethical issues that should be considered and the relevant animal welfare concerns associated with these types of studies."

I'm sure proponents of outrageous chimera research insist it will reap untold benefits, just as did proponents of the totally-ineffective, now-discredited ESCR.

But as researchers who have worked, instead, with adult stems cells have proven, ethical roadblocks are never real deterrents. Scientists who abide by longstanding ethical standards always manage to find other, less objectionable, ways to achieve their goals.

Sincerely,

Connie Pratt
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Colorado Springs, CO 80919