

Office of Science Policy NIH Comments

National Institutes of Health

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Dear Office of Science Policy Comments:

I object strongly to the NIH's proposal to rescind its moratorium on funding of 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 human 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 object strongly to the NIH's apparent lack of consideration for the ethical issues implicated by this research. Indeed, the NIH pledged to "undertake a deliberative process to evaluate the state of science in this area, the ethical issues that should be considered, and relevant animal welfare concerns associated with these types of studies " when the moratorium was put in place in 2015. Yet 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 serious consideration to the significant ethical problems associated with this research before seeking to fund human-animal chimera research.

Sincerely

*Sean Wilentz*