

6265 Tewkesbury Way
Williamsburg, VA 23188
September 1, 2016

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

Dear Office of Science Policy Comments:

I understand that there are many people in the U.S. and world who are very ill and cannot get treatment or cures for diseases; thus, this seems to be the force behind this research, which is helping people with incurable diseases. We must, however, consider what this does to the definition and protections of humans and animals. This research will blur these definitions, so in upcoming years if this research is allowed, humans and animals alike will be considered of no societal value, which is grave position. Is this not how the Nazis' viewed the Jewish, disabled, etc. during WWII? They had no societal value to society.

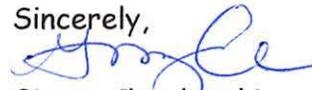
So I object to the NIH's proposal to rescind its moratorium on funding of human-animal chimeras. I do not want my tax dollars being used for grossly unethical research involving the creation and manipulation of part-human, part-animal beings whose very existence blurs the line between humans and non-human 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 object 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 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. 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.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,



Ginger Chwalowski