

I recently learned of a NIH's proposal to rescind its moratorium on funding of research involving human animal chimeras. I very strongly object to this proposal! 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 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 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. I request that you contact NIH to indicate your opposition to this proposal and to urge that the current moratorium on funding research involving the creation and manipulation of human-animal chimeras be maintained. I also request that you initiate efforts to block funding for any human-animal chimeras. Mr. Peter Hickman