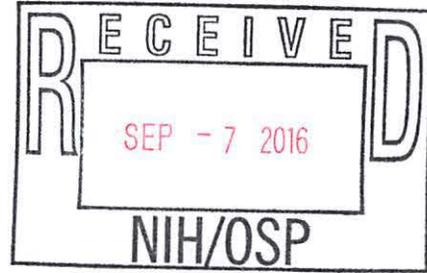


August 31, 2016

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



To Whom These Comments May Concern:

As a taxpayer, 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 research involving the creation and manipulation of part-human, part-animal beings. 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. In the past, 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.

We have already seen the damage created by genetically-modified food crops and mosquitoes. There is no telling what can happen with manipulated genes in chimeras. This is not just wrong—it is dangerous and unethical.

At a minimum, the NIH should give far more serious consideration to the significant moral and scientific problems associated with this research before beginning human-animal chimera research.

Sincerely,

Kay Flowers