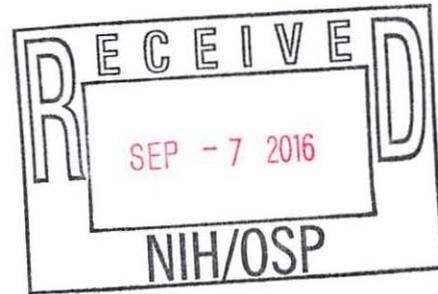


August 31, 2016

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



To: Office of Science Policy Comments:

**I vehemently object to the NIH's proposal to rescind its moratorium on funding of human-animal research, called chimeras.**

I refuse to allow my tax dollars to be used for this type of grossly unethical and dangerous research involving the creation and manipulation of part-human, part-animal beings.

The very existence of this type of artificial creation blurs the line between humans and non-human animals and raises all kinds of known and unknown legal, biologic and ethical problems of human embryonic stem cell research!

Such research also leads to extremely serious problems related to the creation of human-animal beings with partly or substantially human brains and/or human gametes.

I also strongly 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.

Has the NIH learned nothing from the genetic manipulation of the mosquito that spawned the Zika Virus Outbreak?

At the very least, NIH should continue this moratorium and funnel public funds to human-only research and publicly issue the significant ethical considerations involved with human-animal (chimera) research.

Sincerely,

*Mary Spano*