

As a member of the Secular Franciscan Order, I must object on moral grounds to any "research" that blurs the line between humans and animals. Such experimentation, funded by our tax dollars, is a moral outrage that puts both human and animal genetics at risk. Further, I object strongly to the NIH's proposal to rescind its moratorium on funding of research involving 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 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 strongly urge you to maintain the current moratorium on funding research involving the creation and manipulation of human-animal chimeras. The NIH Stem Cell Research combining human stem cells and cells from animals sounds unethical and like something from a science fiction movie. Why not focus on simply the adult human stem cell research which may help in curing disease. Encourage more young American students to study science and work to help mankind cure some of these disease which people around the globe experience. Perhaps the U.S. government could fund more college scholarships for students willing to pursue medical research as their career choice in life. Especially as a cancer survivor I am all for medical research into alternative cures for various diseases but not the route of mixing human stem cells with

animal cells. What happened to ethics in medical science. Mary Ann McFarland