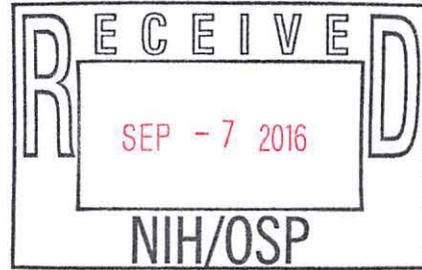


August 31, 2016

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



Dear Office of Science Policy Comments:

When I first heard about this proposal it upset me so much that I couldn't even think of a coherent response. The following words are not my own, but the feelings behind them are certainly mine.

"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."

Unfortunately, the moratorium only involves the funding of such research, while the research itself is what should be banned. That I imagine will need to be addressed by members of the legislative branch of government and I will also be addressing my concern to them.

Yours truly,

Patricia K. Beneshan
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