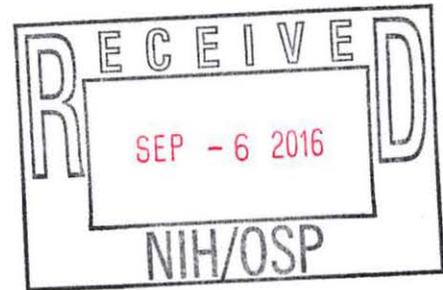


August 29, 2016

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



Re: Human-Animal Chimera Research

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose spending taxpayer dollars on the creation and manipulation of new beings whose very existence blurs the line between humans and animals.

I received notice of this unethical research from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. I appreciate having the opportunity to consider the issues. Otherwise, I would not have known about this, and I would have missed the deadline for comments.

According to the information I received, the research NIH wants to fund is fundamentally different and ethically problematic for several reasons. First, it relies on the killing of humans at the embryonic stage to harvest their stem cells. Second, it involves the production of animals that could have partly or wholly human brains. Third, it involves the production of animals that could have human sperm or eggs (with a stipulation that precautions are taken so such animals are not allowed to breed).

This is unacceptable. We raise animals to eat them. Why would anyone consider manufacturing animals with human genetics? And who trusts that the researchers will make sure that none of the animals are allowed to breed? Look at how GMO traits have invaded wild plant species despite assurances that this would not happen.

Just because you can do something does not mean you should do it. We need to discern the long-term consequences before funding research like this. There are serious ethical issues involved in the creation and manipulation of partly human animals.

Sincerely,

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