

Office of Science Policy NIH Comments

National Institutes of Health

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Dear Office of Science Policy Comments:

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 grossly unethical research involving the creation and manipulation of part-human, part-animal beings whose very existence blurs the line between human 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 science in this area, the ethical issues that should be considered, and 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.

At a minimum, the NIH should give far more serious consideration to the significant ethical problems associated with this research before seeking to fund human-animal chimera research.

Sincerely, *Tim Harris*