

California Nurses for Ethical Standards (CNES) is a professional association of nurses that has been in existence for over 25 years. Our purpose is to promote respect for the sanctity of life and encourage standards of practice that honor related values. Our organization finds the proposed changes to the guidelines to be ethically repugnant. As such, CNES is submitting the following objections to NIH notice number NOT-OD-16-28, Request for Public Comment on the Proposed Changes to the NIH Guidelines Human Stem Cell Research and the Proposed Scope of an NIH Steering Committee's Consideration of Certain Human-Animal Chimera Research: 1) It relies on the killing of humans at the embryonic stage to harvest their stem cells; 2) It involves the production of animals that could have partly or substantially human brains; 3) 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); 4) It allows the introduction of human embryonic stem cells into animal embryos early in their development such that it may be very difficult to know the extent to which human cells contribute to the final organism. Consequently, researchers won't know what their moral obligations may be toward that being. Tragically, the NIH has apparently given little, if any, consideration to these or any other ethical concerns with regard to this research. CNES strongly urges you to maintain the current moratorium on funding research involving the creation and manipulation of human-animal chimeras. Sincerely, Zonya Townsend RN BSN, President California Nurses For Ethical Standards [www.ethicalnurses.org](http://www.ethicalnurses.org)