

LOUISIANA

COALITION FOR ETHICAL STEM CELL RESEARCH

... promoting research that offers real cures, not illusory promises

American Family Association of New Orleans
Concerned Women for America, LA
Hippocratic Resource
Louisiana Family Forum
Louisiana Lawyers for Life
Louisiana Right to Life Federation

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The Competing Human Cloning Bills in Louisiana

"In defending the right to life, in law and through a vibrant culture of life, America can show the world the path to a truly humane future in which **man remains the master, not the product, of his technology.**"

Remarks of Pope John Paul II to President George W. Bush, Castelgandolfo, July 23, 2001.

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I. Facts about the Competing Human Cloning Bills

A. The Pro-Cures, Pro-Life "Human Cloning Ban and Adult Stem Cell Research Promotion Act" [Duplicate bills by Rep. Beard (HB 803) and Senator Lentini (SB 798)]

- The Beard/Lentini bills are **modeled on the language of the Brownback/Landrieu federal human cloning bill**, banning human cloning for any purpose – both cloning to produce children or cloning for destructive human embryo research. The federal bill has passed the Congress and is pending in the United States Senate.
- The Beard/Lentini bills encourage ethical adult stem cell research to continue, including therapies using adult pancreatic cells which have already **helped hundreds of patients with juvenile diabetes** (the Edmonton Protocol).
- Ethical research using adult stem cells, umbilical cord blood and stem cells from placentas have successfully resulted in an array of clinical uses and life-saving therapies. See www.stemcellresearch.org.
- By banning human cloning for any purpose, the Beard/Lentini bills serve to focus Louisiana talent and resources into effective adult stem cell research, such as is now occurring at the

- **Tulane Stem Cell Center**, www2.tulane.edu/article_news_details.cfm?ArticleID=5155,
- the **LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center**, <http://www.pbrc.edu>,
- and the Baton Rouge-based **Celgene Stem Cell Repository**, which ethically attains valuable stem cells from placentas that are usually discarded after childbirth (<http://www.latechnologyguide.com/news02.php>).

B. The Clone and Kill bill by Senator Hines (LA SB 74)

- SB 74 is modeled on a California law whose language is opposed by U.S. Senator Landrieu, who has stated that *“creating human life simply for the purpose of destroying it is immoral, unethical and should be illegal.”*
- SB 74 is a “clone-and-kill” bill that would allow human embryo farming for destructive research in laboratories.
- It does this by defining human cloning to include **only** the act of implanting the cloned human embryo “to initiate a pregnancy.”
- This partial definition thus **allows** the mass production of human clones – but simply bans the implantation of the clones. **The procedure of human cloning (known as SCNT) would be allowed in Louisiana**, but only for the purpose of using the cloned human embryo as raw material in experimental research which always results in the destruction of the human embryo when its stem cells are harvested.
- Cloning for research has **not produced a single cure or treatment** in animal models, nor has it produced any cures or treatments in human beings. See www.stemcellresearch.org
- Even accepting for sake of argument the unsupported hype about miracle cures attained by destroying embryonic human beings, it is uncontested that such treatments would be incredibly expensive and cost-prohibitive, thus making this bizarre science for the **benefit of the wealthy only**.



Keone Penn, cured of sickle-cell anemia by stem cells from umbilical cord blood, testifies before a U.S. Senate committee about successes in adult stem cell research.

The Beard/Lentini “HumanCloning Ban And Adult Stem Cell Research Promotion Act” is modeled on the federal bill.

60 Minutes II: Holy Grail

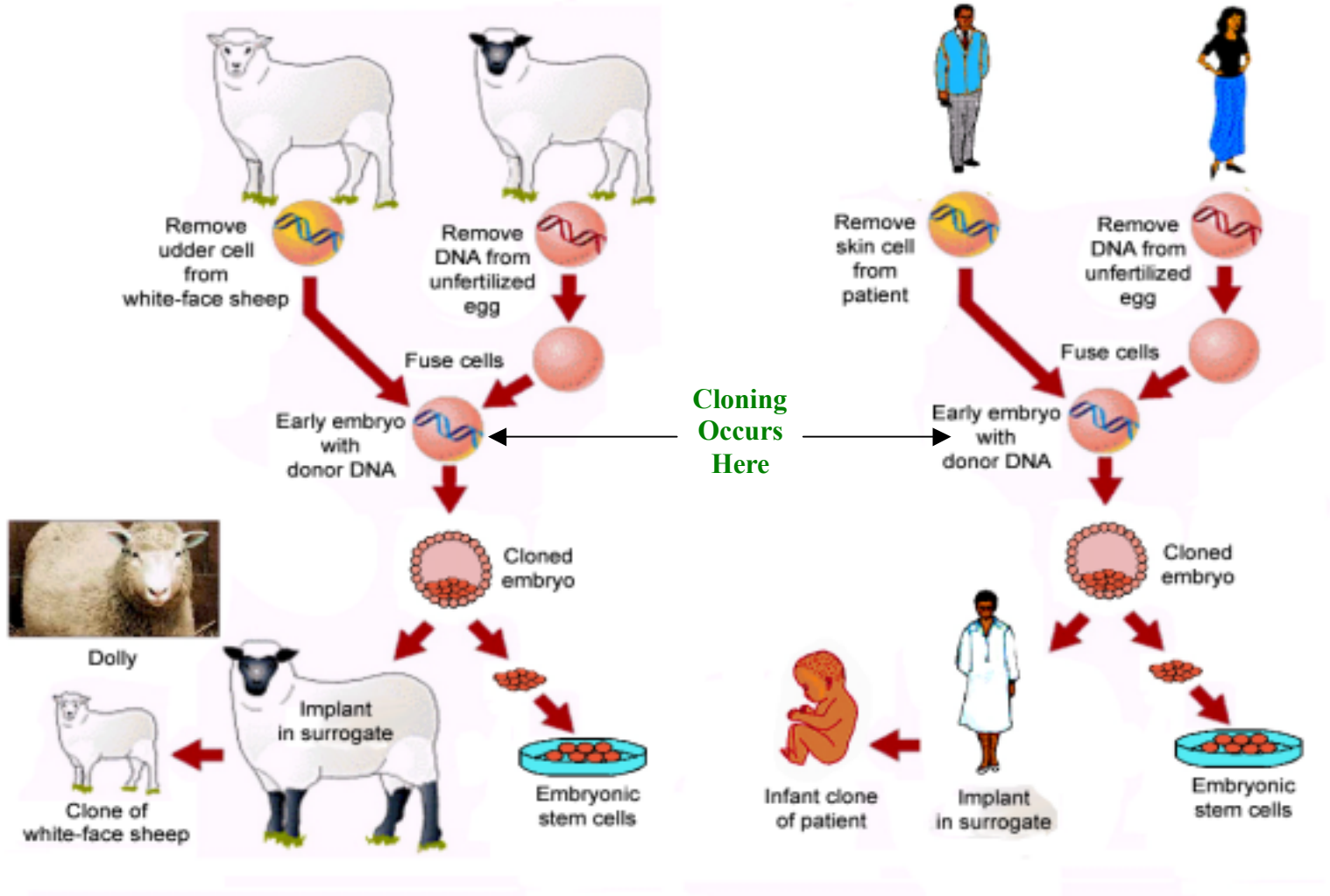
June 5, 2002

Stem cells are thought of as the Holy Grail of medicine. One young boy agrees with that. **He made medical history because he's been cured of his life-threatening disease.** The key to his cure **did not come from a human embryo**, where all the controversy is, but from something that is routinely tossed in the garbage - **an umbilical cord**. Umbilical cords were always considered medical waste. Not anymore.

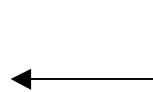
Full story:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2001/11/28/60II/main319351.shtml>

Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) = Human Cloning



Graphic Source: David Prentice, MD, Department of Life Sciences, Indiana State University



Embryo Adoption, www.snowflakes.org

Embryonic cloning for research (SCNT) has not produced a single cure or treatment in animal models or for human trials, despite years of intense funding and efforts. Zero.



Human Genome Sciences Inc., a bellwether company for Maryland's [pro-cloning] biotechnology industry, will announce as early as today that it will lay off 20 percent of its 1,000 employees. . . . Company executives portrayed these developments -- which come atop the layoff of 7 percent of the staff just before Christmas -- as part of a wrenching but necessary transformation for Human Genome Sciences, **which has been burning investors' cash for more than a decade in a so-far-fruitless search for new cures.**

Washington Post, Thursday, March 25, 2004; Page E01

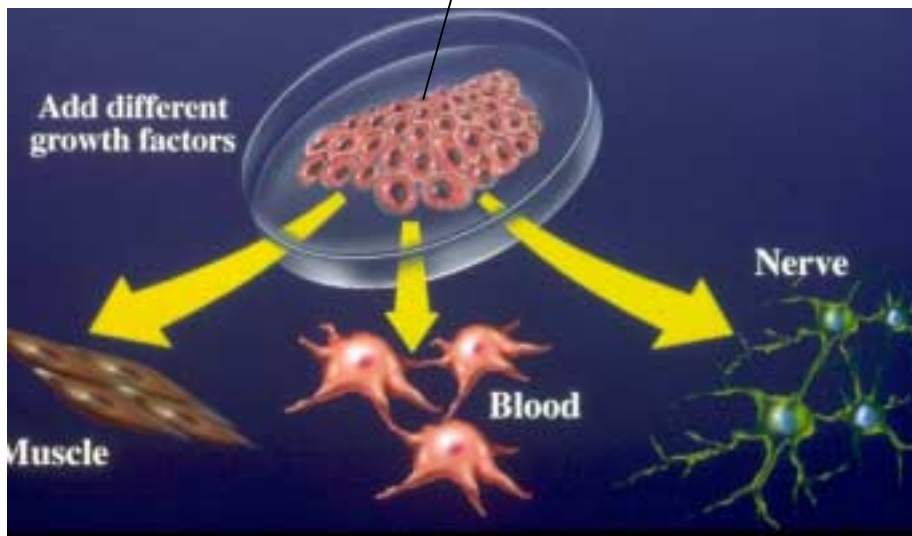
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A22227-2004Mar24.html>

Ethical Adult Stem Cell Therapies

Promoted by Beard/Lentini

“Human Cloning Ban & Adult Stem Cell Research Promotion Act.”

Ethically-attained
adult stem cells
derived from adult
blood, fat cells,
nerves, bone
marrow, placenta
or umbilical cord
blood.



Current Clinical Uses of Adult Stem Cells:

- Cancers (leukemia, lymphomas)
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Sickle Cell anemia
- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- Parkinson's disease
- Many more. . . (www.stemcellresearch.org)
-

Clinical Uses of Embryonic Stem Cells from Clone & Kill Research:

- None

The Competing Human Cloning Bans – There is a Difference!

The Beard/Lentini Bills (HB 803, SB 798)	The Hines Bill (SB 74)
Modeled on Landrieu/Brownback Federal Human Cloning Ban - backed by President Bush	Modeled on a California law that is opposed by U.S. Senator Landrieu and President Bush
Bans Human Cloning for any purpose – both reproductive and destructive embryo research	This is a “clone & kill” bill – allows human cloning (SCNT), but bans only implantation of the clone.
Encourages promising and productive adult stem cell research , including research using adult islet cells which have helped hundred of patients with juvenile diabetes , and many other diseases.	Embryonic cloning for research has not produced a single cure or treatment in animal models or for human trials, despite years of intense funding and efforts.
Adult stem cell sources are plentiful (found in blood, bone marrow, fat, placental tissue), making therapies available for the public .	Even if a cure was ever found using cloning for research, this incredibly expensive procedure would limit this bizarre science for the benefit of the wealthy only .

“But we think there are advantages to using **adult stem cells**. For example, with **embryonic stem cells**, a significant number **become cancer cells**, so the **cure could be worse than the disease.**”

Brian T. Butcher, Ph.D.

Tulane Center for Gene Therapy

Source: Tulane University Magazine, Spring 2004

http://www2.tulane.edu/article_news_details.cfm?ArticleID=5155

Human Cloning Bans and Adult Stem Cell Research bring Biotech Economic Growth

Embryo Research No Road to Biotechnology Growth

Legislators in some states have been told they must pass legislation promoting human embryo research, and even human cloning for research purposes, if the state is to maintain progress and profits in the field of biotechnology. However, there is no evidence of any association between pursuing such controversial avenues and advancing growth in biotechnology. Quite the contrary is true:

Michigan

Michigan has long banned harmful experiments on human embryos, and in 1998 it became the first state in the U.S. to ban human cloning for research purposes. Following enactment of the cloning ban, **“Michigan has seen the fastest growth in the nation for its life sciences industry,” with especially rapid growth in the past three years -- adding over 70 new companies.** (See <http://medc.michigan.org/lifescience>) In a national survey released in November 2003, Michigan was also cited as “the second most business friendly state” in the nation, after North Carolina (Mitechnews.com, Late Breaking News for Nov. 2, 2003).

Michigan State University, in particular, is “a world leader in biotechnology” (www.biotech.msu.edu), and in January 2003 it acquired a new tenured professor in its Department of Animal Science -- Dr. Jose Cibelli, formerly one of the top three cloning experts at Advanced Cell Technology in Massachusetts.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania also has a longstanding ban on harmful experiments on human embryos; such experimentation is a Class C felony. Under this policy, Pennsylvania now **“ranks second in pharmaceutical employment nationally, third in biotechnology employment and fourth in medical device employment” in the United States** (www.pabioconnect.com/aboutbio.html).

International Trends

Is the United States losing its preeminence in biotechnology to countries like the United Kingdom, which officially authorize human cloning for biomedical research? Not at all.

Recent studies show that “the USA continues to dominate the biotechnology industry,” accounting for more than 70% of revenues and more than 70% of R&D spending. All of Europe contributes approximately 20% of revenues and 25% of R&D spending (*The Research Newsletter*, <http://trn.rampazzo.com/W22Y03/indicator.asp>).

And within Europe the leading nation for biotechnology growth is Germany, which has surpassed the UK in number of biotechnology companies (Id.). Germany has long had the strongest law in Europe against harmful research on human embryos, banning human cloning for

research purposes as well as destruction of “spare” embryos from fertility clinics for stem cell research. Industry observers saw “a growth spurt in the German biotechnology industry” beginning in 2001, fueled in part by a \$425 million government funding program for genome research (“Germany’s biotechnology industry takes off,” *The Scientist*, February 23, 2001, www.biomedcentral.com/news/20010223/03/).

According to *The Research Newsletter’s* international survey, other leading nations in biotechnology growth are: **Canada** (second highest number of biotech companies in the world), whose Parliament is considering a complete ban on human cloning for research purposes; **France**, which has a policy against human cloning for research purposes; and **Australia**, which has banned human cloning for research purposes since 2002.

Companies

Due to a failure to derive marketable benefits from the effort, the biotechnology companies most closely associated with cloning and embryonic stem cell research are turning to other things – or disbanding altogether – despite favorable legal environments.

The **Geron Corporation**, which funded the first U.S. studies in isolating human embryonic stem cells in 1998, briefly attracted investors due to public hype over this work – then took a “sudden fall” by 2000, the value of its stock dropping 98 percent in three years. The company has downsized, and now hopes to survive by concentrating on new cancer treatments that do not involve embryo or cloning research (P. Jacobs, “Biotech’s Bitter Pill,” *San Jose Mercury News*, November 23, 2003, p. 1F).

PPL Therapeutics, the Scottish company that cloned “Dolly” the sheep, has sold its intellectual property on cloning to a holding company, and “is being dismantled after the company’s scientific feats were not followed by commercial success.” H. Timmons, “Cloning Technology Sold,” *The New York Times*, January 1, 2004, p. W1.

Both companies were located in areas with laws encouraging embryonic stem cell research and “therapeutic cloning” – Geron in California, PPL in the United Kingdom.

The message is clear: Biotechnology progress bears no relation to the passage of laws favoring human embryo research or human cloning for research purposes. States and nations that ban these practices are taking the lead in many aspects of biotechnology growth, leaving behind regions that wrongly assumed they could automatically advance biotechnology by ignoring ethical principles.

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How Cloning Exploiting Women's Health for Eggs

The following May 6 article from Nature magazine shows how women's health, especially poor women, will be exploited for the mass egg production need for human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. The women of Louisiana do not need to be subjected to this, when adult stem cells from bone marrow, fat, and placentas are readily available and successful in research. DCB

Were Korean egg donors public-spirited or press-ganged?

More controversy is swirling around the Korean scientist who announced in February that he had successfully cloned human embryos and created a stem cell line. This time the issue is whether women were pressured into donating their eggs to further his research.

Korean bioethicists, human rights activists and the leading journal Nature have all suggested that the donors included junior members of a research team headed by Woo Suk Hwang. Nature was told by a PhD student on the team, Ja Min Koo, that she and another woman in the lab had donated eggs. She subsequently changed her story, blaming her poor English for a misunderstanding.

Hwang and the ethics committee which approved the research refused to provide further information. When the news of the experiment first broke, many non-Korean scientists expressed their astonishment that Hwang had been able to persuade 16 volunteers to provide him with 242 eggs for his research. Egg donation is uncomfortable at best and at worst can be life-threatening. In the US, for instance, stem cell researcher Jose Cibelli paid women thousands of dollars and obtained only 20 eggs.

In an editorial comment Nature said that egg donors should all be genuine volunteers with no direct connection with the research. "If the air is not cleared quickly, the consequences for Korean science -- and for research into therapeutic cloning internationally -- could be severe."

Hwang and his IVF colleague Shin Young Moon became instant celebrities in Korea and around the world when they provided proof of principle for therapeutic cloning. In April Hwang received the South Korean government's most prestigious science award and was included in Time magazine's "A-list of the world's most influential people".

Apart from therapeutic cloning and animal cloning, Hwang is also experimenting with human-cow hybrids although only 9% of his hybrid embryos have reached the stage at which embryonic stem cells can be harvested. In South Korea's hyper-patriotic society, questioning the research methods of a prominent figure like Dr Hwang is a delicate issue.

"No one wants to debate the ethics because the government is so excited about it," a scientist at Seoul National University told Nature. "Most scientists are also worried about a lack of students in science, so they don't want to break the excitement either." ~ Nature, May 6

<http://www.australasianbioethics.org/Newsletters/currentbioedge.html#were>

The Moral Dimension of Human Cloning and Destructive Human Embryo Research

"It is immoral to produce human embryos intended for exploitation as disposable biological material."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, ¶ 2275 (citing 84 CDF, Donum vitae I, 5.)

In defending the right to life, in law and through a vibrant culture of life, America can show the world the path to a truly humane future in which man remains the master, not the product, of his technology."

Remarks of Pope John Paul II to President George W. Bush, Castelgandolfo, July 23, 2001.