



*Dedicated to Advancing Stem Cell Research*

**Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research**

## **Why NIH is Best Suited to Oversee Stem Cell Research**

A growing number of states are creating research centers to promote the study of human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) and other stem cell types. Nevertheless, the National Institutes of Health is the organization best suited to overseeing this research. NIH's vital role underlines the need to expand federal support for ESC research.

### **NIH is best positioned to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing.**

For fifty years, the NIH has promoted collaboration among the scientists who receive federal dollars. As exciting as the growing number of state-funded stem cell initiatives may be, the creation of research centers outside the NIH network could lead to competition among the new stem cell organizations. They might well become more like dueling biotech firms, guarding their intellectual property and funding sources, instead of fostering collaboration in the manner NIH is known.

NIH funding and oversight will ensure that no walls are put up between the diverse stem cell centers and will instead promote the synergy and serendipity that are so critical to progress.

### **NIH is best positioned to ensure that all research meets high ethical standards.**

If stem research institutes are set up in five or six different states, there may well eventually be five or six different sets of regulations. At the very least, different regulations will make it difficult for scientists from one state research center to collaborate with scientists from another. Moreover, with stem cell researchers governed by a range of regulatory systems, it will be difficult to ensure that all stem cell research meets the highest ethical standards.

Regulation by NIH, on the other hand, ensures that all stem cell researchers are meeting the same standards. Moreover, the NIH has long experience overseeing cutting edge research and establishing standards that ensure the research is done professionally and ethically.

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