

Use of Human Embryonic Stem Cells In NIH Supported Intramural and Extramural Research

On August 9, 2001, at 9:00 p.m. EDT, the President announced his decision to allow Federal funds to be used for research on existing human embryonic stem cell lines as long as prior to his announcement (1) the derivation process (which commences with the removal of the inner cell mass from the blastocyst) had already been initiated and (2) the embryo from which the stem cell line was derived no longer had the possibility of development as a human being.

In addition, the President established the following criteria that must be met:

- C The stem cells must have been derived from an embryo that was created for reproductive purposes;
- C The embryo was no longer needed for these purposes;
- C Informed consent must have been obtained for the donation of the embryo;
- C No financial inducements were provided for donation of the embryo.

In order to facilitate research using human embryonic stem cells, the NIH has created a Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry that lists the human embryonic stem cell lines -- at varying stages of development -- that meet the eligibility criteria. Entities that have developed stem cell lines that meet the President's criteria and are therefore eligible for federal funding are listed at the following location: <http://stemcells.nih.gov>, <http://stemcells.nih.gov/registry>.

Information specific to NIDDK's programs is available at:

http://www.niddk.nih.gov/fund/HESC_guide.htm