Liberty and Life, and Professional Ethics

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Stem cells are the primary cells that have the ability of self-renewal by using mitotic cell division. Stem cells in mammals can be categorized as embryonic stem cells, umbilical cord stem cells, and cord blood stem cells. Using stem cells for treatment has many advantages as they help in lowering the symptoms of the diseases that are being treated while significantly reducing the intake of medications. However, using stem cells can produce tumors and treatments using stem cells require radiation that can be harmful to remove previous cells from the patient’s body before transplant. It is, therefore, the responsibility of the government to make certain policies so that the research in the field can be continued while also ensuring the morality of the ways through which these cells are accessed[[1]](#footnote-1).

In the US there is no direct ban on stem cell research yet there is a ban on funding and using stem cells in any treatment. However, the government should subsidize the stem cell research as these cells can potentially cure many diseases like cancer, spinal cord injuries and diabetes, etc. The only issue government had regarding the use of stem cells was to use embryonic stem cells taken from aborted babies although it is not entirely true as stem cells used in research are the unused embryos from the Vitro fertilization process.

While discussing the morality most of the people are concerned about destroying human embryos as people believe that even during the Vitro fertilization unused embryos should also be given a chance to live. For instance, Anne McLaren in her article[[2]](#footnote-2) mentioned that human embryo from stage-one and onwards possess moral values that are equal to newborns so to use them for research is highly unethical and can be considered as murder. However, there are many other methods from which the stem cell can be accessed.

**Bibliography**

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1. Lovell-Badge, Robin. "The future for stem cell research." *Nature* 414, no. 6859 (2001): 88. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. McLaren, Anne. "Ethical and social considerations of stem cell research." *Nature* 414, no. 6859 (2001): 129. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)