

Key Facts About Stem Cells

Stem cells are the building blocks of our bodies. They have the unique ability to turn into and regenerate the specialized cells that make up our tissues, bones and organs.

Adult type stem cells are found in body tissues, including tissues in the bodies of adults and in discarded umbilical cords and placentas. Scientists have been conducting research with adult stem cells for over 50 years and have developed a number of medical therapies that use adult stem cells, such as bone marrow transplants to treat leukemia.

Early, or embryonic, stem cells (ES cells) are the new frontier in stem cell research. There are two basic sources of ES cells: leftover fertility clinic embryos that would otherwise be discarded and a process called Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT). SCNT is a recent medical breakthrough that can use a patient's own cells and an unfertilized human egg to make ES cells that match the patient's genetic makeup. ES cell research does not use or harm an embryo or fetus in a woman's uterus.

Adult stem cells can turn into a limited number of related cell types. ES cells have the potential to turn into any type of cell or tissue in the human body. As a result, ES cells could provide cures for many diseases and injuries that cannot be cured with adult stem cells. Stem cells made with the SCNT process have the added advantage of being made with DNA from a patient's own cell – thus eliminating the need for a genetically compatible donor and the problem of immune system rejection.

Research and cures involving both SCNT and ES cells from leftover fertility clinic embryos are allowed under federal law and are being actively pursued in the U.S. and many other countries. And, the overwhelming majority of medical experts, medical organizations and patient advocacy groups, agree that all types of stem cell research should be pursued in the effort to find lifesaving cures, including research involving ES cells and adult stem cells.

KANSAS COALITION FOR LIFESAVING CURES

Partial list of organization members

Alliance for Aging Research
 Alliance for Stem Cell Research
 American Association for Cancer Research
 American Diabetes Association
 American Society of Gene Therapy
 American Society of Hematology
 American Society for Reproductive Medicine
 Children's Neurobiological Solutions Foundation
 Christopher Reeve Foundation
 Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research
 Cure Autism Now Foundation
 CuresNow
 Cystic Fibrosis Research, Inc.
 Diabetes Research Institute
 Diabetes Research Institute Foundation
 Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
 Hereditary Disease Foundation
 Jack Orchard ALS Foundation
 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
 The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
 Mid-America Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
 National Council on Spinal Cord Injury
 Parkinson Foundation of the Heartland
 Parkinson's Action Network
 Parkinson's Disease Foundation
 Project A.L.S.
 Research!America
 Research for Cure
 Society for Women's Health Research
 Stem Cell Action Network
 Stowers Institute for Medical Research
 Student Society for Stem Cell Research
 Take Charge! Cure Parkinson's, Inc.
 United Spinal Association

For more information, please contact:
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 Website www.KansasCures.com



KANSAS COALITION | for
Lifesaving Cures

Working to Ensure that Kansas Patients Have Access to Lifesaving Stem Cell Cures

www.KansasCures.com

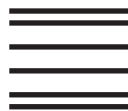
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Help Us Protect Patient Access to Stem Cell Cures in Kansas



“Stem cell research holds great promise for the nearly 21 million Americans who have diabetes. Stem cell research could lead not only to a cure for diabetes, but to better treatment as well. The American Diabetes Association is a proud member of the Kansas Coalition for Lifesaving Cures, and we will continue to oppose any measure that will stand in the way of progress of potentially lifesaving research.”

BRUCE BARRETT
STATE ADVOCACY LEADER
AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

Will Kansas patients have access to new medical cures that are available to other Americans?

That’s the key issue that led to the formation of the Kansas Coalition for Lifesaving Cures, a broad coalition that includes concerned citizens throughout the state and dozens of leading patient and medical organizations.

Stem cells could provide cures for diseases and injuries that afflict hundreds of thousands of Kansas children and adults and millions of other Americans – including diabetes, Parkinson’s, cancer, heart disease, ALS, sickle cell disease and spinal cord injury.

Unfortunately, some politicians in Topeka want to pass a state law that would ban, criminalize or restrict important types of stem cell research in Kansas – and actually prohibit Kansas patients from having access to future stem cell cures. Clearly, any such ban would be unfair to Kansas patients and medical institutions.

Kansans overwhelmingly support stem cell research and equal treatment for Kansas patients.

Our Coalition’s policy position is that any stem cell research and cures allowed under federal law should be allowed in Kansas – as long as those activities are conducted ethically and safely and do not involve human cloning to create babies.

A recent public opinion poll showed that 79% of Kansas voters agree with this basic policy position. But unless we make our voices heard, stem cell opponents could succeed in getting the state legislature to impose a state ban on stem cell research and future stem cell cures that are allowed under federal law and available to patients in other states.

Equal treatment for Kansas medical institutions makes good economic sense for our state.

Ensuring that Kansas medical institutions can continue to compete on a level playing field with institutions in other states and countries will help attract millions of dollars in research investments to our state. That, in turn, will generate more state tax revenues and quality jobs for Kansas. In addition, the development of stem cell cures for costly diseases like diabetes could significantly reduce health care costs for many Kansas patients and their families – and could also help reduce state-funded Medicaid costs.

You can help by joining our statewide coalition.

By joining our coalition, you can help us show that Kansans from all walks of life support stem cell research and cures – and oppose any state ban on stem cell research and cures in Kansas. **To join, simply fill out and mail back the member card attached to this brochure.**

You can also join online – and get more information about stem cells – by visiting our website at www.KansasCures.com. Joining will cost you nothing – but it could help save the life of someone you love.

“Stem cell research has the potential to provide better treatments and cures for many currently incurable medical conditions, including spinal cord injury, diabetes, Parkinson’s and many others. We are members of the Kansas Coalition for Lifesaving Cures because we believe patients should have access to future therapies and cures that improve and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in Kansas.”

MICHAEL MANGANIELLO
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
CHRISTOPHER REEVE FOUNDATION

 **I want to show my support for patient rights and stem cell research and cures by becoming a member of the Kansas Coalition for Lifesaving Cures. You may list me publicly as a member.**

Name (please print) _____
 Signature _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Number (optional) _____
 Email address (optional) _____
 Occupation or Job Title* _____

Please list other household members (age 18 or older) who want to join our coalition.

Name (please print) _____
 Signature _____
 Name (please print) _____
 Signature _____
 Name (please print) _____
 Signature _____

*Job titles and affiliations are for identification purposes only and will be indicated as such on any published lists.