

DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

7 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138



The Honorable Diana DeGette
1527 Longworth HOB
Washington DC, 20515

The Honorable Mike Castle
1233 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

January 10, 2007

Dear Congresswoman DeGette and Congressman Castle:

We write in regard to the Administration's misuse and misunderstanding of our scientific research cited in the White House Domestic Policy Office report entitled, "Advancing Stem Cell Science Without Destroying Human Life."

We are disappointed that the White House Office of Domestic Policy gave us no opportunity to correct the report's clear misrepresentation of our work, and we are surprised to see our work on reprogramming adult stem cells used to support arguments that research involving human embryonic stem cells is unnecessary. On the contrary, we assert that human embryonic stem cells hold great promise to find new treatments and cures for diseases, and we support H.R. 3, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

The work that we performed and that was cited in the White House policy report is precisely the type of research that is currently being harmed by the President's arbitrary limitation on federal funding for human embryonic stem cell research. Our work directly involves the use of human embryonic stem cells and if H.R. 3 is passed, our studies would be greatly advanced.

We feel that the President's restrictive policy has directly impeded research that provides a hope for cures for millions of Americans. We have seen how this ban has discouraged our colleagues from pursuing potentially lifesaving work and lessened our nation's standing in the global community of medical research. Furthermore, we believe lifting the ban is so important that we left our labs on January 10, 2007 to visit Washington, DC to brief Members of Congress and their staff and urge support for H.R. 3.

We stand ready to provide any support that we might offer to help you pass H.R. 3. In this instance, The White House has clearly gotten it wrong. The overwhelming consensus in the scientific and medical community is that embryonic stem cell research holds the greatest potential to cure diseases and end the suffering of millions.

Sincerely,

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