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Stem Cell Research

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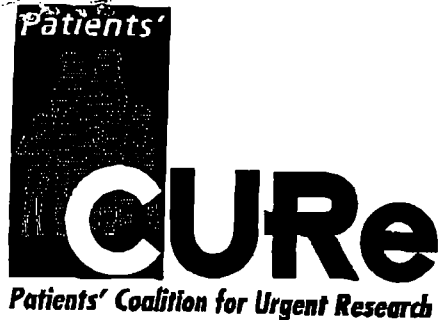
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Close hold
until Thurs. 10:00

Patients' CURE Overview

The recent advances in stem cell research could lead to new treatments and even cures for diseases that affect millions of Americans. Doctors may one day be able to use stem cells to regenerate or replace damaged tissue in people who live with debilitating illnesses such as Parkinson's disease, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, spinal cord injuries, severe burns, osteoporosis and other diseases. Stem cell research will also allow scientists to study cell differentiation, which holds the key to a deeper understanding of birth defects and abnormal cell behavior, such as cancer.

Mission

The Patients' Coalition for Urgent Research (Patients' CURE) is a broad alliance of patients' groups dedicated to informing the public, media and policymakers about the extraordinary potential of this revolutionary research. In addition to educating, Patients' CURE is committed to ensuring stem cell research receives proper oversight and support through federal funding.

Coalition Members

Alliance for Aging Research
The ALS Association
American Autoimmune Related Diseases Assn.
American Cancer Society
American Parkinson Disease Association
Cancer Leadership Council
Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation
Citizens for Public Action on Blood Pressure & Cholesterol
Cure for Lymphoma Foundation
Glaucoma Research Foundation
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International
Kidney Cancer Association
National Coalition for Cancer Research

Nat'l Coalition of Autoimmune Patient Groups
National Health Council
National Marfan Foundation
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Spinal Cord Injury Association
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Parkinson's Action Network
Research!America
Resolve, The National Infertility Association
Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research
Spina Bifida Assn. of America Foundation
Tourette's Syndrome Association, Inc.

Coalition Principles

■ *Gives Hope to Millions of Patients and their Families*

No research in recent history has offered as much hope to as many as 128 million Americans suffering from debilitating and often fatal diseases. By studying tissues that would otherwise be discarded, researchers can potentially develop treatments and cures for our most intractable diseases, thereby saving and improving the lives of patients and their families.

■ *Lives will be Saved Faster*

Early basic science is generally underfunded by the private sector because it does not produce marketable products quickly enough to make the investment worthwhile. Therefore, public funding is the only way to ensure stem cell research is thoroughly conducted. Government funding will allow many more scientists to study stem cells, which will hasten the discovery of effective therapies.

■ *Federal Funding Ensures Oversight and Public Accountability*

Scientists who receive federal grants will be required to adhere to strict guidelines developed by the NIH with advice from ethicists, theologians and the public. It is important for this medical research to occur in the public domain with careful oversight and opportunities for evaluation.

Stem Cell Research Polling Information

Opinion Research Corporation International was commissioned by Patients' Coalition for Urgent Research (Patients' CURE) to conduct polling on the subject of stem cell research. Several questions were included in our CARAVAN® Survey, a weekly omnibus telephone survey.

Between May 6-9 the survey of 1,005 adults was conducted. Chosen through a random-digit-sample, the adults included 503 men and 502 women 18 years of age or older, living in private households in the continental United States.

Prior to asking a question specifically addressing federal funding for stem cell research, a definition of the research was given. Following is the definition that was used:

As you may already know, a stem cell is the basic cell in the body from which all other cells arise. Medical researchers have been able to isolate stem cells from excess human embryos developed through *in vitro* fertilization and fetal tissue that has been donated to research. Medical researchers believe that human stem cells can be developed into replacement cells to cure diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, cancer, heart disease, arthritis, burns or spinal cord problems.

After hearing the definition, 74 percent of respondents said they favored the funding of stem cell research by the National Institutes of Health.

- Men are more likely than women to be in favor of the research funding (79% vs. 71%).
- Americans who have had at least some college education are more likely to favor the funding of research than those without any college education (78% vs. 71%).