## A Public Opinion Study for Research!America

Summer 2005

Research!America has been gauging public opinion on people's attitudes toward medical, health and scientific research since 1992. Results of our recent poll on stem cell research show majority support for embryonic stem cell research. These poll responses indicate there is a belief that the United States should be a global leader in all areas of health-related research.

## Majority of Americans Support Embryonic Stem Cell Research (ESCR)

Fifty-eight percent of Americans favor the use of embryonic stem cells in medical research [Figure 1]. A full third (34\%) strongly support ESCR and another $24 \%$ say they somewhat favor ESCR. Three in 10 (29\%) are opposed to it and a significant number of Americans (13\%) say they do not know.

Of those opposed to ESCR, a majority (57\%) say they have religious objections to the research [Figure 2]. Close to four in $10(39 \%)$ say they object to the research on grounds other than religion.

Many Americans ( $62 \%$ ) also support using fertilized eggs (embryos) for ESCR when the leftover embryos are voluntarily donated and would have been discarded otherwise [Figure 3]. A third (31\%) are opposed to the use of these leftover embryos. This correlates to the number of people who say they are opposed to ESCR altogether.

## Of Those Opposed to ESCR, Many Cite Religious Objections

Would you say your opposition to embryonic stem cell research is based on
religious objections, or is your opposition based on other grounds?


HARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY, 2005

## Americans Favor Research Using Donated Eggs from Fertility Clinics

Scientists can extract embryonic stem cells from fertilized eggs that are voluntarily donated by fertility clinic patients. These fertilized eggs would otherwise be discarded. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose embryonic research?


## Americans Support Therapeutic Cloning

When provided a description of a technology referred to as somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) and therapeutic cloning, almost seven in 10 Americans (69\%) say they support the use of this cloning technology to produce an embryo for research [Figure 4]. However, when asked a similar question using the terminology "therapeutic cloning," the level of support drops by 10 percentage points (59\%).

Many Americans (61\%) say that they will not personally benefit from the potential treatments and cures expected from ESCR [Figure 5].

Almost all Americans (95\%) think it is important for the U.S. to be a global leader in medical and health research [Figure 6]. An overwhelming majority (78\%) say global leadership is very important. The most common responses given when asked what other countries are leaders in research include Great Britain ( $21 \%$ ), don't know ( $21 \%$ ) and Germany ( $10 \%$ ).

## Methodology

Research!America has been gauging public opinion on attitudes toward health-related research since 1992. Research!America recently partnered with PARADE magazine to commission a poll on Americans' attitudes about embryonic stem cell research. Charlton Research Company conducted a telephone survey using Random Digit Dial methodology among 1,000 adults nationwide. The sample was proportionate to the country's demographics, including geography, gender and ethnicity. The survey, fielded in June 2005, has a theoretical sampling error of $\pm 3.1 \%$.

Research!America is a 501 (c)(3) membership-supported national alliance of organizations and individuals dedicated to enhancing public education and advocacy for medical, health and scientific research. For more information, contact Research!America, 1101 King Street, Suite 520, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Telephone: 703-739-2577. E-mail: info@researchamerica.org. Web site: www. researchamerica. org.

## CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY

## Americans Favor Cloning Technology to Make Embryonic Stem Cells

Scientists can now make embryonic stem cells for medical research by merging an unfertilized egg with a skin cell, for example. In other words, no fertilization takes place and there is no merger of an egg and a sperm. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose embryonic stem cell research?


SOURCE: TAKING OUR PULSE: THE PARADE/RESEARCHIAMERICA HEALTH POLL
Figure 4

## Embryonic Stem Cell Research Offers Hope

Do you or does anyone you care about suffer from a disease or condition that you hope will become treatable or curable as a result of embryonic stem cell research?


## U.S. Should Be Global Leader in Medical and Health Research

How important do you think it is that the U.S. is a global leader in medical and health research?


