

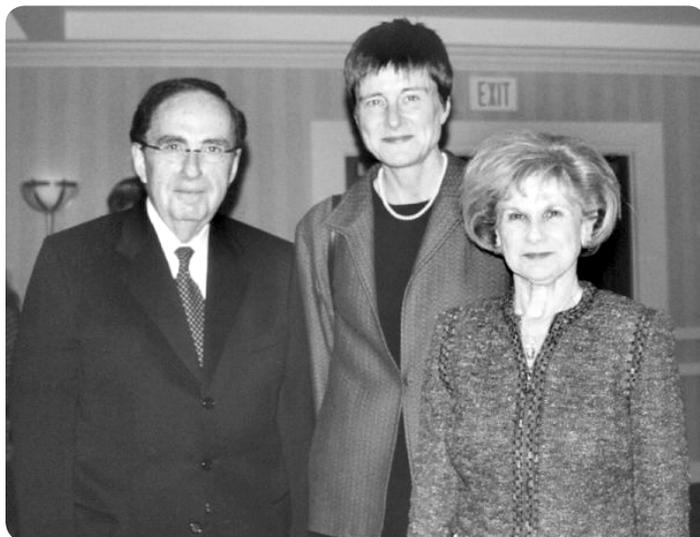
Nebraskans for Research Hosts Leading Adult Stem Cell Researcher

Dr. Catherine Verfaillie (pronounced “ver – fi”), an internationally renowned adult stem cell researcher, was in Nebraska, March 7-8, 2005 to brief Nebraska State Senators on the importance of embryonic stem cell research and present the 23rd Annual Latta Lecture at UNMC.

Dr. Verfaillie, currently Professor of Medicine and Director of the Stem Cell Institute at the University of Minnesota, was lead researcher on a 2002 study that suggested adult stem cells may



Dr. Catherine Verfaillie discussing stem cell research with students from UNMC.



Dr. Verfaillie with Harold and Beverly Maurer.

have characteristics similar to embryonic stem cells. She also was named one of the country's 10 leading innovators in science and technology by the US News and World Report in 2000.

Dr. Verfaillie, is a strong proponent of research on all stem cells, including embryonic stem cell lines derived from excess embryos donated from in vitro fertilization clinics as well as embryonic stem cell lines derived via Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT). “As scientists, we have to go after the truth and get the facts,” she said.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
DR. VERFAILLIE:
<http://www.stemcell.umn.edu/stemcell/faculty/verfaillie/home.html>**

2 findings

2005 Nebraska Legislature

The Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee heard public testimony on two bills that would restrict future life saving research. Another bill, LB 580 introduced by Senator Joel Johnson, M.D. of Kearney was also heard and would ban human reproductive cloning in Nebraska while protecting and regulating the use of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer or SCNT, for promising medical research.

Nebraskans for Research worked with Senator Johnson on LB 580 to give senators an opportunity to look at the importance of research and to not close a very important door to life saving opportunities into the future.

LB 580 would establish firm guidelines for such research for the protection of women who donate oocytes and ensure that all SCNT research conducted in the state conforms to applicable federal rules. In this way, we can respect broadly held values of human dignity and research ethics and ensure that Nebraska research institutions can participate fully in the future development of medicine for the benefit of the health and well being of all Nebraskans.

The March 10th Judiciary Hearing dealt with our LB 580 as well as Senator Adrian Smith's LB 437 which would ban cloning of all kinds and Senator Mike Foley's LB 750 which would prohibit the use of state funds to perform or assist in non-therapeutic research that destroys a human embryo. LB 750 would prohibit the use of any public institution, public facility, public equipment or any physical asset owned, leased or controlled by the state to be used for the purpose of performing or assisting in non-therapeutic research that destroys a human embryo. Violators would be guilty of a Class IV felony and subject to civil fines.

Senator Smith stated during his opening remarks during the hearing that human cloning undermines the process to protect human life and that the practice is dangerous and inappropriate for government to support. Senator Foley stated that LB 750 would address the "bioethical quandary" of cloning by establishing an ethical boundary that state research could not cross.

Senator Joel Johnson, sponsor of LB 580, stated "The opponents look in this Petri dish of human cells and see a human being," he said. "When I look in the Petri dish, I see hope for cures."

and 437 would produce a serious flaw at UNMC and the State of Nebraska.

Drew Miller, University of Nebraska Regent, supported LB 580 at the hearing and noted that banning research that could promote people's quality of life would be immoral.

Nebraskans for Research Policy Director, Sanford Goodman closed the hearing with remarks supporting LB 580 saying that adult stem cells do not present the same level opportunity for research that embryonic cells do. That in fact, this is the future of medicine.

Somatic cell nuclear transfer is the process by which the nucleus of a somatic, or non-germ cell, is inserted into a female oocyte from which the nucleus has been removed previously. In certain non-human species, such cells have been stimulated to begin to divide in a manner similar to naturally fertilized zygotes and, when implanted in the womb of a female of the species, have resulted in live births, a process known as reproductive cloning. Such live births have been very rare and many attempts have resulted in the death of the fetus and/or mother. This process is both unnecessary and unsafe for humans and human reproductive cloning should be prohibited.

Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) with human cells, however, can be used to create pluripotent stem cell lines for medical research. The scientific community is confident that using somatic cell nuclear transfer for such research provides unparalleled opportunities to advance our understanding of human biology and opens new, powerful research techniques that could lead to treatments and cures for a number of debilitating diseases and conditions, such as Parkinson's, juvenile diabetes and spinal cord injuries, that afflict millions of people around the world, including many Nebraskans.

Tom Rosenquist, Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center said therapeutic advances of embryonic stem cell research provide great opportunity than other methods to treat conditions such as Parkinson's disease, heart disease, juvenile diabetes and spinal cord injuries. He stated that all these cures will happen at some point in the future and that legislation like LBs 750

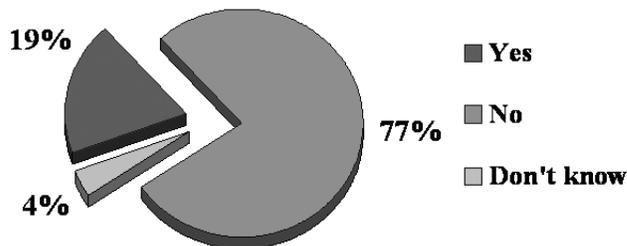
All three bills remain in the Judiciary Committee and will not be acted upon this session.

Although keeping these issues off the table and keeping the current status quo is a win for supporters of medical research, the 2006 Nebraska Legislature will again be dealing with these issues. All three bills will carryover until Jan., 2006.

Research!America is a not-for-profit, membership-supported public education and advocacy alliance founded in 1989. Our nearly 500 member institutions, organizations and corporations represent the voices of more than 100 million Americans who want medical and health research – including research to prevent disease, disability and injury and to promote health – to be a much higher national priority. Research!America’s public opinion surveys and advocacy programs and publications are designed to reach the public and decision makers with messages that support a strong and vibrant research enterprise.

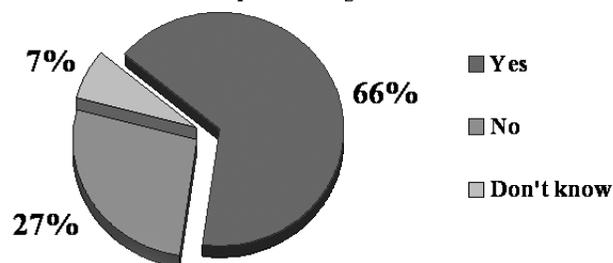
Reproductive Cloning Should Not Be Allowed

Reproductive cloning is the use of cloning technology to create a child. Do you think that research into reproductive cloning should be allowed?



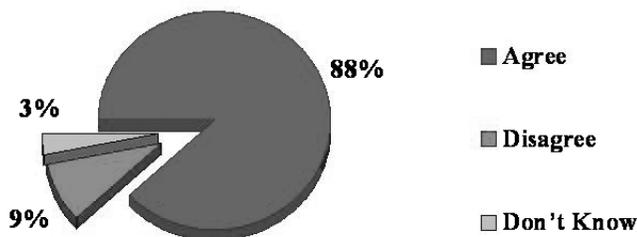
Therapeutic Cloning Should Be Allowed

Therapeutic cloning is the use of cloning technology to help in the search for possible cures and treatments for diseases and disabilities. Do you think that research into therapeutic cloning should be allowed?



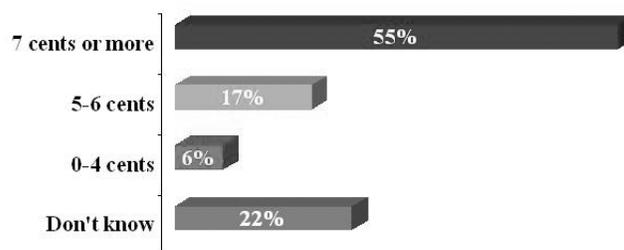
Investment in Research Pays Off

Do you agree or disagree that in the long run, the money invested in medical and health research pays off?



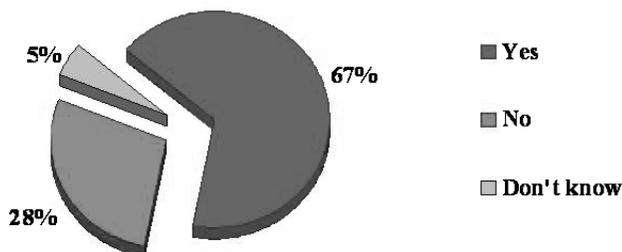
Americans Want More Spent on Medical and Health Research

Currently, about 6 cents out of each health dollar spent in the U.S. goes for medical and health research. How many cents out of each health dollar do you think we SHOULD spend?



Americans Willing to Pay More Taxes for Medical Research

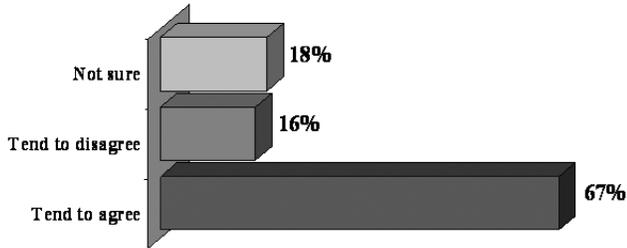
Would you be willing to pay \$1 per week more in taxes if you were certain that all the money would be spent for additional medical research, or not?



Source: National Survey, 2005
Charlton Research Company for **Research!America**
All polling information reprinted here has the approval of **Research!America**.

Americans Trust Scientists About the Benefits of Stem Cell Research

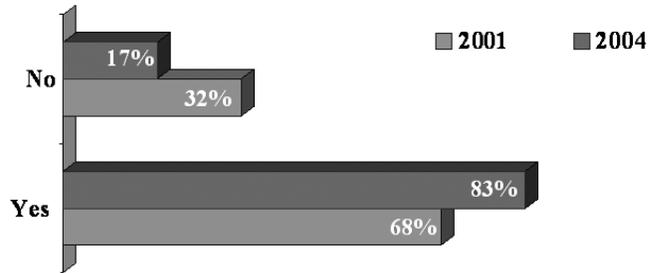
If most scientists believe that stem cell research will greatly increase our ability to prevent or treat serious diseases we should trust them and let them do it. Do you tend to agree or disagree with this statement?



NOTE: Percentages may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Harris Interactive Polls published in the *Wall Street Journal*, August 18, 2004

Increasing Awareness of Stem Cells

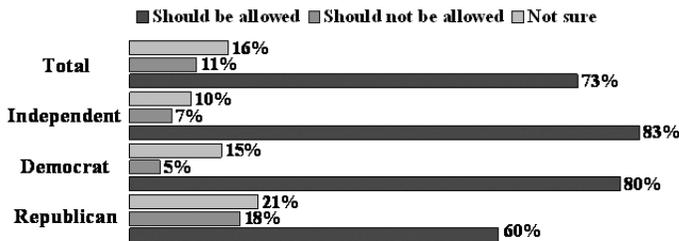
Have you seen, heard or read anything about the debate on whether to allow the use of stem cells from human embryos to be used in medical research?



Source: Harris Interactive Polls published in *Wall Street Journal*, August 18, 2004

Majority of Americans Think Stem Cell Research Should be Allowed

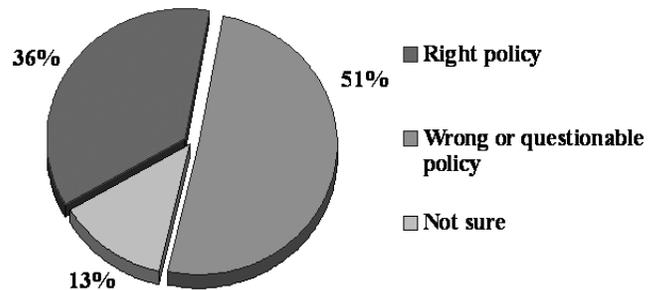
Stem cells come from embryos left over from in vitro fertilization, which are not used and normally destroyed. Many medical researchers want to use them to develop treatments, or to prevent diseases, such as diabetes, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease. On balance, do you think this research should or should not be allowed?



NOTE: Percentages may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding.
Source: Harris Interactive Polls published in the *Wall Street Journal*, August 18, 2004

Tracking Stem Cells

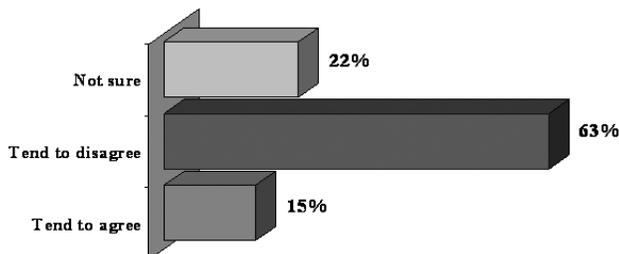
Is President Bush pursuing the right policy on stem cells?



Source: WSJ/NBC News Poll, Aug. 23 to Aug. 25, 2004

Americans Disagree Embryonic Stem Cell Research Should Be Forbidden

Allowing any medical research using stem cells from human embryos should be forbidden because it is unethical and immoral. Do you tend to agree or disagree with this statement?



Source: Harris Interactive Polls published in the *Wall Street Journal*, August 18, 2004

NEBRASKANS FOR RESEARCH 3RD ANNUAL TRIBUTE LUNCHEON

A Salute to Rik & Shannon Bonness



Rik and Shannon Bonness have worked on the local and national level to ensure that the United States and the State of Nebraska have the ability to pursue life saving research. Their passion for this cause has taken them from Nebraska's State Capitol to the United States Congress. Their sons, Eric and Alex, who have battled juvenile diabetes for years, testified before a U.S. Senate subcommittee in 2003. The couple continues to volunteer for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, both locally and nationally, to raise funds and advocate for increased research to find cures for juvenile diabetes and other diseases.

MONDAY, MAY 9 11:30AM – 1:00PM

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