

Top 10 Myths of Stem Cell Research

1. Stem cells come only from embryos
 - a. Many sources: adult (body parts, cadavers), pregnancy related (umbilical cord, placenta, amniotic fluid), embryonic and embryonic germ cells
2. Catholic Church is against stem cell research
 - a. Catholic Church supports 3 of 4 types of stem cell research
3. The Greatest Promise Lies in Embryonic Stem Cells
 - a. 98 diseases today can be treated w/ adult stem cell
 - b. Zero can or have been treated with embryonic
4. Human Embryonic Research is against the Law
 - a. No federal law or regulation exists today for destroying human embryos for research purposes
5. President Bush made new funding restrictions for ESCR (Embryonic Stem Cell Research)
 - a. Federal funding cannot be used to kill human life; Bush allowed funding for those cells that were already in banks today
6. Therapeutic (to make tissue) and reproductive (to produce children) cloning are different.
 - a. Both create a cloned embryo using the same steps
7. SCNT (Somatic cell nuclear transfer) is different from cloning
 - a. Just another name for cloning
8. SCNT makes organs and tissues without cloning embryos
 - a. As of today, we cannot make organs or tissues directly- must always clone first
9. Every body cell is really an embryo
 - a. No; for example, once a skin cell always a skin cell
10. Using abandoned frozen embryos is morally acceptable
 - a. Ends don't justify the means (killing is killing)

Source: Father Tad Pacholczyk (www.ncbcenter.org)