

## **Policy Instructions on the Ethics of Human Embryo and Embryonic Stem Cell Research**

1. Research on human embryos and embryonic stem cells (hereafter referred to as embryo and their stem cell research) shall be conducted under the principles of respecting and protecting human dignity and rights of life, and to maintain public order and virtuous customs.
2. Research on embryos and their stem cells shall comply with relevant laws and regulations promulgated by the government.
3. Embryo and their stem cell research shall not be conducted in the following ways:
  - (1) The use of somatic cell nuclear transfer techniques to produce an embryo and implant that embryo into a uterus;
  - (2) The use of *in vitro* fertilization to produce embryos for research purposes;
  - (3) The production of hybrids;
  - (4) The *in vitro* culture of embryos with primitive streaks;
  - (5) The reproduction of embryos for research purposes or implantation of embryos for research use into the uterus of humans or other species;
  - (6) Reproduction of chimeras containing human germ cells; and
  - (7) Injection of nuclei from other species into nucleus-free human eggs.
4. Embryos and their stem cells shall be obtained in a non-remunerative way from embryos from spontaneous abortions, embryos from induced abortions in compliance with regulations of the *Genetic Health Act*, embryos remaining from *in vitro* fertilization procedures, or embryos or embryonic tissues produced by somatic cell nuclear transfer without the presence of primitive streaks.
5. Embryos and their stem cells can only be obtained after donors are clearly informed in advance of the matters to be agreed upon, and consent in writing is signed with the full understanding of the donors and with their free will.
6. Human eggs for research on somatic cell nuclear transfer shall be eggs remaining after *in vitro* fertilization has been performed in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations and with the consent in writing of the couples or donors who have undertaken this procedure; or, cells can be obtained from informed adult females whose consent in writing is obtained.

Donors of the eggs mentioned in the preceding Paragraph shall possess the capacity of disposition and shall not be related in any way with the research project directors.

7. Research projects on embryos and their stem cells shall be reviewed and approved by the ethics committee of the responsible research institute or the ethics committee of other authorized institutions.

For the review mentioned in the preceding Paragraph, the following matters shall be considered:

- (1) The research project shall meet the objectives of promoting medical care and scientific development, improving human health and welfare, and treating diseases.
- (2) It would be difficult to achieve the objectives of the research projects by other research methods.
- (3) The project contents shall be scientifically qualified and meet ethical requirements.