

March 10, 2009
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This past week President Obama has reached much further than simply lifting a ban on the federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. He also has now permitted the use of tax dollars for funding the clone and kill research where embryos can be produced by cloning, invitro fertilization, or other "lawful techniques" for the sole purpose of doing research and extracting the embryonic stem cells. In executing this order he claims the decision was guided not by political ideology but by science. No claim could be more ironic. When one considers all the advances that have been made with non-embryonic stem cell research and the advances that have been made in being able to reprogram adult stem cells into the very pluripotential stem cells that drives the demand for embryonic research, one can only conclude that this executive order itself is driven by ideology and not science. There are over 70 diseases, which are now being treated with non-embryonic stem cells. Truly, the blind are regaining their sight, the lame and the paralyzed are walking. Diseases that embryonic stem cell research only dreams of curing are being treated now with non-embryonic stem cells. Clearly if we look at the objective scientific results there is no contest. In light of this what is behind the persistence in seeking tax dollars for this destructive research.

The usual suspects are involved; the greed and recognition to be obtained by patents on the research techniques and the unbridled desire to simply perform research because it can be done without regard to whether it should be done. President Obama is correct that one ideology did guide the previous ban on embryonic stem cell research, the ideology that no human being no matter how small should be experimented upon and sacrificed that someone else may benefit. In years past, a more civilized medical community decided that no data obtained from the Nazi death camp doctors would be used. In no way did they want to legitimize the means by which it was obtained or disrespect the the victims who were killed to obtain it. We should be no less than tolerant of an ideology that seeks to not only sacrifice and experiment on those embryos that are now present, but also to allow the creation of embryos for the purpose of research. President Obama had an opportunity to live up to the ideal of Lincoln; to affirm that no other human being should be treated as property. Unfortunately, in this instance he has failed to live up to that ideal with tragically fatal consequences for potentially thousands of individuals and our society.

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Patient Name: ,
Date of Service: March 10, 2009

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