

**HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON
STEM CELL RESEARCH**



**REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2007 NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

December 2006

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA



HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON STEM CELL RESEARCH

December 2006

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2007
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Attached for your consideration is the final report to the House of Representatives of the 2007 General Assembly. This report was prepared by the House Select Committee on Stem Cell Research pursuant to G.S. 120-19.6(a) and Rule 26(a) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the 2005 General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Earl Jones, Chair



**Office of the Speaker
North Carolina House of Representatives
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-1096**

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON STEM CELL RESEARCH

Revised 3/30/06

**TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Section 1. The House Select Committee on Stem Cell Research (hereinafter "Committee") is established by the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to G.S. 120-19.6 and Rule 26(a) of the Rules of Representatives of the 2005 General Assembly.

Section 2. The Committee consists of the twelve members listed below, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Members serve at the pleasure of the Speaker of the House. The Speaker of the House may dissolve the Committee at any time.

| |
|--|
| Representative Earl Jones, Chair |
| Representative Martha B. Alexander, Vice-Chair |
| Representative Bob England |
| Representative Jean Farmer-Butterfield |
| Representative Dale R. Folwell |
| Representative Melanie Wade Goodwin |
| Representative Mark W. Hollo |
| Representative Jim Gulley |
| Representative Linda P. Johnson |
| Representative Paul Miller |
| Representative Fred F. Steen, II |
| Representative Larry Womble |

Section 3. The Committee shall study the State's role in stem cell research, including enacting laws limiting or expanding current research efforts and providing State funds to scientists doing research in this area.

Section 4. The Committee shall meet upon the call of its Chair. A quorum of the Committee shall be a majority of its members.

Section 5. The Committee, while in discharge of its official duties, may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and Article 5A of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes.

Section 6. Members of the Committee shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowance as provided in G.S. 120-3.1.

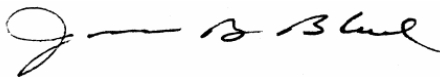
Section 7. The expenses of the Committee including per diem, subsistence, travel allowances for Committee members, and contracts for professional or consultant services shall be paid upon the written approval of the Speaker of the House of Representatives pursuant to G.S. 120-32.02(c) and G.S. 120-35 from funds available to the House of Representatives for its operations.

Section 8. The Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional and clerical staff to assist the Committee in its work. The Director of Legislative Assistants of the House of Representatives shall assign clerical support staff to the Committee.

Section 9. The Committee may meet at various locations around the State in order to promote greater public participation in its deliberations. The Legislative Services Commission shall grant adequate meeting space to the Committee in the State Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.

Section 10. The Committee may submit an interim report on the results of the study, including any proposed legislation, on or before May 1, 2006, by filing a copy of the report with the Speaker's Office, the House Principal Clerk, and the Legislative Library. The Committee shall submit a final report on the results of its study, including any proposed legislation, to the members of the House of Representatives on or before December 31, 2006, by filing the final report with the Speaker's Office, the House Principal Clerk, and the Legislative Library. The Committee terminates on December 31, 2006, or upon the filing of its final report, whichever occurs first.

Effective this 28th day of February, 2006.



James B. Black
Speaker

3/30/2006 Revised to add Representative Jim Gulley

COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The House Select Committee on Stem Cell Research, met six times between March 22, 2005, and December 19, 2006. The Committee heard presentations from the following:

- Dr. Brigid Hogan, PhD, FRS, Chair of the Duke University Department of Cell Biology, provided members with an overview of the scientific aspects of stem cell research in her presentation "Stem Cell Research: What is Involved and What are the Potential Benefits."
- David Muller, Vice Consul of Science and Technology for the British Consulate-General, provided the committee with information about the status of stem cell research in the United Kingdom with his presentation "United Kingdom Cell Policy and Regulation."
- Lord Naren Patel, MD, Chair of the United Kingdom Stem Cell Steering Committee and member of the House of Lords of the Parliament, spoke with members of the committee by conference call, providing an overview of UK experiences relating to stem cell research in the UK and responding to members' questions.
- Lauren Dame, JD, MPH, Associate Director of the Duke University IGSP Center for Genome Ethics, Law and Policy and Faculty Associate of the Duke University Medical Center, Center for the Study of Medical Ethics and Humanities, gave a presentation on "Ethical Issues in Stem Cell Research" to the committee.
- Alissa Johnson, Program Principal of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Genetic Technologies Project, provided members with an overview of the current state of stem cell research in the United States with her presentation, "Stem Cells and the States."
- Mary Richards, Director of Government Relations for the Parkinson's Action Network, provided the committee with insight into one segment of the public's interest in this issue with her presentation "Stem Cell Research Perspectives – the Parkinson's Community."
- Lawrence Soler, Vice President of Government Relations for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International, presented committee members with the views of another population on this area of research with his presentation, "Stem Cell Research Perspectives from the Diabetes Community."
- Marie Hilliard, MS, MA, RN, PhD, JCL, Director of Bioethics and Public Policy for the National Catholic Bioethics Center, provided committee members with her organization's perspective on stem cell research in her presentation, "Ethical and Moral Implications of Embryonic Stem Cell Research."
- Jacques Mistrot, MD, presented the committee with information about a theoretical approach that proposes a new technique for producing embryonic stem cells called "Therapeutic Cloning" and discussed other issues relating to embryonic stem cell research.
- Terry Magnuson, PhD, Director of the Carolina Center for Genome Sciences and Chair of the UNC – Chapel Hill Department of Genetics, provided the committee with insight into the development of ethical guidelines for the conduct of stem cell research with his presentation, "National Academies Guidelines for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research."

- Larysa Pevny, PhD, Assistant Professor of Genetics at UNC – Chapel Hill, presented the committee with information relating to her current stem cell research activities, "Directed Differentiation of Embryonic Stem Cells into Neuronal Cell Types."
- Jeff Fair, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery at UNC – Chapel Hill, presented information to the committee from his research on "Hepatic Transplantation of Embryonic Stem Cell Derivatives."

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION

FINDING:

The House Select Committee on Stem Cell Research was charged with the task of studying the State's role in stem cell research, including enacting laws limiting or expanding current research efforts and providing State funds to scientists conducting research in the area. Presentations given to the committee illustrated the wide range of opinions that exist among individuals and organizations interested in this area of research.

The committee heard from a range of individuals and organizations interested in stem cell research, including the following: representatives from the United Kingdom, who spoke about their experiences developing this area of research; local scientists specializing in this area of research; representatives of organizations acting on behalf of individuals with health conditions interested in the development of this area of research; and individuals representing organizations that are opposed to the conduct of this type of research.

Given the continued interest in this area of research at both the federal and state levels, the House Select Committee on Stem Cell Research makes the following recommendation relating to the conduct of stem cell research in the State.

RECOMMENDATION: ENACT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH.

The House Select Committee on Stem Cell Research encourages the General Assembly to enact legislation to provide ethical guidelines for the conduct of stem cell research in the State.