

**The Center For Advanced Reproductive Services
Farmington, CT**

**Position Statement
Stem Cell Research**

The Center for Advanced Reproductive Services (The Center), the largest in-vitro fertilization program in Connecticut, supports federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research.

The Center is a member of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM). ASRM is a founding member of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR) a coalition of medical, scientific and patient advocacy groups as well as research institutions supporting embryonic stem cell research. Thanks in part to the excellent work of CAMR and ASRM The Center for Advanced Reproductive Services is pleased to join the strong tide of pro-research momentum.

The Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR) is devoted to ensuring that federal funding will be available for stem cell research using fertilized eggs developed for in vitro fertilization and that the current federal guidelines overseeing the research are retained. Moreover, federal funding will ensure that this research is subject to rigorous ethical guidelines and scrutiny. In May of 2001, a CAMR national survey demonstrated that 70% of survey participants supported NIH funding for stem cell research.

Stem cells are the master cells for human development and were first isolated in 1998. Scientists believe that these cells could be critical to curing such devastating diseases and conditions as juvenile diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, cancer, heart disease, spinal cord injury, ALS, and many others. Stem cells are derived from fertilized eggs developed for in vitro fertilization that are in excess of clinical need and would otherwise be discarded or frozen and from fetal tissue that is donated to research and which would otherwise be discarded.

The Center for Advanced Reproductive Services reports that 27% of all their patients cryo-preserve various numbers of pre-embryonic cells. Of the frozen inventory, approximately 40% of patients utilize them for subsequent cycles, 1.2% discard, and <1% donate for reproductive use by other couples. Currently, approximately 58% of these patients maintain frozen pre-embryonic cells as they decide on the alternative that is right for them.

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