

# Stem Cell Research

Stem cells are found in all organisms. These immature cells have a unique ability to develop into many types of mature cells. For that reason, they may hold promise for treating a wide range of diseases characterized by the loss of normally functioning cells. These diseases include: diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Huntington's, heart disease, multiple dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, and many other destructive disorders.

Despite the unique promise of stem cells, the use of one type for research – human embryonic stem cells – is the subject of extensive public debate.

## Our Stem Cell Policy

Recognizing both the potential importance of stem cell research and the genuine concerns of society and government, we have a worldwide policy and procedures to ensure the highest ethical and scientific standards in any research involving any type of stem cells. The policy allows for the use of adult human stem cells, animal stem cells, and fetal stem cells from sources such as umbilical cord blood, maternal blood, and placenta or amniocentotic fluid. The use of stem cells for reproductive cloning is not permitted.

A Johnson & Johnson advisory committee that includes university-based bioethics experts must review any research request involving human embryonic stem cells. The policy requires a compelling medical reason for using human embryonic stem cells and requires such studies are conducted according to the guidelines of the National Institutes of Health, the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine.

The use of embryonic stem cells from human fetuses obtained from either elective or therapeutic abortions is not permitted.

Our embryonic stem cell policy covers all research by our operating companies, external grant recipients, research collaborators, and external companies in which we make investments.

We follow new developments in this area with great interest.