

HUMAN CLONING

The 'science' of deception



Until recently, human cloning has been confined to the realm of science fiction. On film, Hollywood portrayed demented scientists in secret laboratories as the perpetrators of such over-the-edge technology. *But no longer.*

Human cloning is fast becoming reality, with human cloning experiments now being conducted—not by fictional wild-eyed rebels, but by credentialed experts working in some of the world's most respected institutions, some of which are publicly funded with tax dollars.

These researchers are working under the mantra, *if it can be done, it will be done—and it MUST be done.* However, that philosophy ignores the key question, *SHOULD it be done?*

The science fiction definition of *clone* would suggest that the cloned organism would be an exact genetic copy of another creature—human or beast—created in the laboratory by any of a number of means. But that's not exactly the case. No matter how good a photocopier is, for instance, upon close examination you can usually tell the difference between the original and the copy. So too with cloning, there are differences—so much so that despite the “exact copy” claim, the cloned organism is actually unique genetically.

That's only one of the deceptions, but it's one that's made frequently, and one that's seldom questioned.

CALL IT *something else*

Human cloning may not be the province of Hollywood any more, but many of the most vocal cheerleaders of the

process come from the ranks of entertainment and media celebrities. Perhaps they're misinformed. Perhaps their acting ability enables them to tell deceptive tales with a straight face. At any rate, they have been key in garnering public support for this so-called science, all without even mentioning the word *cloning*.

They talk, for instance, of doctors taking the nucleus of a spare skin cell and injecting it into a donor egg whose nucleus was removed. The egg starts growing, dividing into embryonic stem cells, which can then become the specialized cells needed to cure whatever condition ails you—Parkinson's disease is one frequently mentioned—without the risk of rejection that accompanies transplantation, because only your DNA is present in these cells.

SO WHAT'S *wrong?*

There are five major errors in the above one-paragraph scenario, all of which are designed to make human cloning sound like the most benevolent scientific breakthrough ever.

- They purposefully don't use the term *human cloning*, or acknowledge that it is a kind of human genetic engineering.
- Cleverly neglected is the fact that a new human being came into existence. The *growing egg* is in fact a living human being, not a clump of cells.
- The *embryonic stem cells* develop only because this is a living human embryo. When its stem cells are taken for experimentation, a living human being becomes a dead human being. This human person cannot survive removal of stem cells.
- It is not just *your* DNA that would be present in these cells. At least some genetic material from the *donated* egg also remains.

- This also raises questions about tissue rejection. As there will be another person's DNA in the stem cells transplanted as part of the treatment, there is no hiding from the fact that the human body frequently rejects DNA that is not its own.

When celebrities expound on the wonderful things such experimentation can lead to, they seldom acknowledge there are many different types of human cloning. They often hide what they are really talking about, and they seldom tell the full truth. They generally fail to point out that cloning is actually a form of genetic engineering.

BAN human cloning

No piece of proposed legislation—federal or state—has yet offered an airtight, no exceptions ban on human cloning. Backers say a Congressional bill offered by Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas and Rep. Dave Weldon of Florida is a total ban, but scientists and attorneys who have carefully examined the measure say this is not the case. Most bills address only one form of human cloning, but even those fail to offer a complete ban. Also, many types of genetic engineering, including human cloning, slip through the cracks in these bills.

These proposals use faulty definitions, create loopholes, and include contradictions. These failures enable human cloning advocates to deceive people and carry on with their lethal experimentation. These bills provide false security to a public that truly believes their legislators are on course to ban this unethical research.

LEAVE GOD out?

If you are a person of faith, you've probably noticed that God has not been mentioned up to this point. That's because cloning researchers and their celebrity defenders never talk about Him. At this point, however, God must take His rightful place as part of the discussion. Human cloning is a threshold that should not be crossed. All types of human cloning should be forbidden—worldwide. Man should not play God, but man refuses to take no for an answer—despite the fact that when he does, man always loses.

If you're armed with the facts, you can defend millions of embryonic human beings, and maybe even help celebrities and media figures learn the truth. While human cloning is a complex topic, the facts are readily available. The message is not *pro-life* or *religious* by any means. It is *secular* science, in concert with international standards, agreed to by human embryologists from around the world, most of whom are not *pro-life* or even *religious* themselves.

YOU CAN look it up

- Assorted articles at www.all.org/issues/cloning.htm
- "The kettles calling the pots fake: When is 'cloning not cloning'? When both sides play politics—with human lives," Dianne N. Irving, MA, PhD, www.lifeissues.net/writers/irv/irv_63kettle1.html
- "Cloning and the first fool: Demand proof," Dianne N. Irving, MA, PhD, www.lifeissues.net/writers/irvi/irvi_23demandproof.html
- "Cloning, stem cell research and some historic parallels," C. Ward Kischer, PhD, www.all.org/abac/cwk002.htm
- "The immediate product of human cloning is a human being: Claims to the contrary are scientifically wrong," Dianne N. Irving, MA, PhD, www.all.org/abac/dni005.htm
- "Cloning: When word games kill," Dianne N. Irving, MA, PhD, www.all.org/abac/dni001.html
- "Playing God by manipulating man: Facts and frauds of human cloning," Missouri Catholic Conference Annual Assembly Workshop, www.mocatholic.org/uploads/IrvingCloning3.pdf
- Irving Library on Cloning/Stem Cells: www.lifeissues.net/sub_section.php?topic=ir&subsection=clo

These are the only recommended articles. Please note there is much bad science available, even from well-meaning pro-life sources. When in doubt, ask American Life League.



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