

Alzheimer's Association

Stance on Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research

https://www.alz.org/national/documents/statements_stemcell.pdf

- The Alzheimer's Association continues to issue this statement regarding their support of human embryonic stem cell research:
 - ◆ “The ability of human embryonic stem cells to form any other type of human cell makes them perfect candidates for scientists to create better models of the healthy or diseased human brain for testing ideas, theories, therapies, etc.”

<https://www.alz.org/media/documents/research-using-stem-cells-statement.pdf>

- This statement further promotes and applauds the utilization of human embryonic stem cells:
 - ◆ “The majority of human embryonic stem cells are derived from embryos that come from eggs that have been fertilized in vitro (not from embryos fertilized in a woman's body). Embryonic stem cells (either animal or human) can divide many times, giving rise to millions of stem cells from just a single starting cell. In addition, embryonic stem cells can be directed to differentiate into a wide variety of specialized cells. For some medical conditions, these specialized cells may be able to be used to replace cells or cellular factors (such as proteins) that are lost or damaged as a result of disease or that may be therapeutic. In other cases, researchers may be able to use the specialized cells to learn more about the disease process, opening new possibilities for prevention or treatment.”

Stance on Assisted Suicide

<https://www.alz.org/news/2023/alzheimers-association-statement>

<https://www.liveaction.org/news/alzheimers-association-parts-ways-assisted-suicide/>

- For less than 3 months, AA had a working relationship with Compassion & Choices, one of the largest organizations to promote assisted suicide. AA released this statement on Jan. 29, 2023, regarding their decision to cut ties with the euthanasia advocates:

- ◆ “In an effort to provide information and resources about Alzheimer’s disease, the Alzheimer’s Association entered into an agreement to provide education and awareness information to Compassion & Choices, but failed to do appropriate due diligence. Their values are inconsistent with those of the Association. We deeply regret our mistake, have begun the termination of the relationship, and apologize to all of the families we support who were hurt or disappointed. Additionally, we are reviewing our process for all agreements including those that are focused on the sharing of educational information. As a patient advocacy group and evidence-based organization, the Alzheimer’s Association stands behind people living with Alzheimer’s, their care partners and their health care providers as they navigate treatment and care choices throughout the continuum of the disease. Research supports a palliative care approach as the highest quality of end-of-life care for individuals with advanced dementia.”



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