

# CHARITY WATCHLIST



## American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy



### EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

- The American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy provides a brochure entitled "Stem Cell Facts." The [brochure was published by the International Society for Stem Cell Research](#) and explains what embryonic stem cells are; ISSCR does not condemn the use of these stem cells in its brochure. In fact, it advocates for these stem cells and claims that they are "valuable":

*"Human embryonic stem cells are derived primarily from blastocysts that were created by in vitro fertilization (IVF) for assisted reproduction but were no longer needed." (p. 2)*

*"Unlike tissue-specific (adult) stem cells, embryonic stem cells have the potential to generate every cell type found in the body. Just as importantly, these cells can, under the right conditions, be grown and expanded indefinitely in this unspecialized or 'undifferentiated' state. These cells help researchers learn about early human developmental processes that are otherwise inaccessible, study diseases and establish strategies that could ultimately lead to therapies designed to replace or restore damaged tissues." (p. 3)*

- Its [FAQ page](#) describes the advantages of human embryonic stem cells:

**"Embryonic stem cells (ESCs). These are pluripotent stem cells derived from embryos. Generally, the embryos used to isolate stem cells are unused embryos generated from in vitro fertilization (IVF) for assisted reproduction. As ESCs are pluripotent they retain the ability to self-renew and to form any cell in the body. ESCs have the advantage of versatility due to their pluripotency, but the use of embryos in the development of therapeutic strategies raises some ethical concerns."**

- After two attempts to reach the ASGCT, it has not replied to ALL's inquiries as to whether it uses human embryonic stem cells in its research.

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#### Mission

Knowledge, awareness, and education  
leading to the discovery and clinical  
application of therapies to cure disease.

#### Focus

genetic disease research, birth defects