



CHARITY WATCHLIST

Shriners Hospitals for Children



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

- Shriners Hospitals for Children refuses to answer ALL's numerous inquiries regarding its position on human embryonic stem cell research.
- Under "[Grants Program](#)," Shriners admits that it does grant money to support regenerative medicine. It is unclear if it supports regenerative medicine that utilizes human embryonic stem cells:

Basic (bench) research grants support projects carried out in a laboratory environment that are innovative, of high scientific caliber, and highly significant and relevant to the Shriners Children's mission areas. These include: burns, orthopedics, scoliosis, cleft lip and palate, cerebral palsy, neurological disorders and spinal cord injury.

Grants also help support research in the areas of regenerative medicine, genomics/precision medicine and motion analysis.

- In 2021 Shriners [announces](#) a new gene and stem cell therapy program supported by the [Howard Green Center at Shriners Children's Boston](#):

Shriners Children's is pleased to announce that a cutting-edge gene and stem cell therapy research program to cure a rare skin blistering disorder is to be supported by the Howard Green Center for Children's Skin Health & Research at Shriners Children's Boston.

The lead scientist is Dr. Jeffrey Morgan, who has a proven track record of successful innovation and leadership skills. . . . Dr. Morgan trained at Massachusetts Institute of Technology with Howard Green, M.D.

"Dr. Green dedicated his career to furthering our understanding of skin regeneration and improving the outcomes for patients," Dr. Morgan said. "I am honored not only to build on his work in helping improve the lives of patients, but to do so together with Shriners Children's."

- While Dr. Green did not work at Shriners and passed away a year prior to Shriners naming the center after him, he had a history of working with human embryonic stem cell research. [His bio states](#):

In 2002, Dr. Green started working on human embryonic stem cells. He subsequently defined the conditions that permit differentiation of the embryonic stem cells into keratinocytes and studied the factors that control this differentiation.

ABORTION

- The Shriners Hospital in Spokane, Washington, signs [a public Hospital Reproductive Health Services form](#) from 2019 to the Washington State Department of Health, which indicates that it does not participate in reproductive services, including abortion. The form states:

As a pediatric, orthopedic hospital, Shriners Hospital for Children-Spokane does not provide any reproductive health services.

Shriners Hospitals for Children

shrinerschildrens.org

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Mission

Offer family-centered pediatric specialty care regardless of families' ability to pay.

Focus

pediatrics, orthopedics, burn care, spinal cord injuries

NOTEWORTHY

- In its "[Who We Are](#)" section, Shriners International proclaims that "All Shriners are Masons."
- Catholic Answers' [explains](#) the moral dilemma for Catholics to financially support Shriners Children's Hospitals:

The Catholic Church has not formally pronounced on financially supporting Shriners hospitals, although we can apply Catholic principles to the question, given that the Shriners are a philanthropic endeavor of the Masons. As the Masons note well on their official website, all Shriners are Masons, and Shriners hospitals are one of their big service projects.

A Catholic might counter that he'd give financially to a Shriners hospital only to support the Masons' care of disabled children, and that any support of the Shriners otherwise would be an unintended side-effect. Here one should consider the Church's teaching on the principle of double effect. We can never choose evil that good may come from it (CCC 1756).



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