



CHARITY WATCHLIST

The Michael J. Fox Foundation



THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION
FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH



EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

- The MJFF funds research in partnership with Aligning Science Across Parkinson's (ASAP). The two organizations [provide two stem cell collections](#) to an organization called WiCell. One of the stem cells collections are described as follows:

*Comprised of well-characterized **human embryonic stem cell** (hESC) lines, the iSCORE-PD Collection . . . includes isogenic controls and Parkinson's Disease(PD)-specific lines derived from the **WIBR3 human embryonic stem cell** (hESC) line. . . . The collection allows researchers to investigate the molecular pathophysiology of PD within a human cellular context. The generation and distribution of the iSCORE collection was supported by ASAP in partnership with MJFF.*

WIBR3 was created at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The cell-line registry identifies its source as a human blastocyst, and identifies the line as female.

- The Foundation has historically funded human embryonic stem cell research, with [thousands of results](#) related to this type of research appearing in searches of its website.
- A [2025 interview](#) with the chief scientist at the Foundation discusses how human embryonic stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cells from adults are primarily used in research for Parkinson's Disease:

*Today, **the therapies being developed use embryonic stem cells** or, more frequently, induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), which are often generated by reprogramming skin cells to become brain cells.*
- ALL's Charity Watchlist contacted the MJFF seeking an official statement on the use of human embryonic stem cells in the research it funds. It has not responded.

The Michael J. Fox Foundation

michaeljfox.org

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Mission

Finding a cure for Parkinson's disease through research and improved therapies for those living with the disease.

Focus

Parkinson's disease, brain and nervous system disorders

Charity Watchlist Rating: RED
unworthy of support



LGBTQ+

- The Foundation has made [social media](#) and [blog posts](#) in support of Pride Month in recent years:

In honor of Pride Month — a time to commemorate the Stonewall Uprising in our hometown of New York City, and the worldwide impact of the LGBTQ+ community — MJFF has once again draped our logo in the colors of Pride and is featuring stories from LGBTQ+ people living with Parkinson's.