



# INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

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Date: September 6, 2016

To: Dr. Francis Collins

From: Jaydee Hanson, Program Director for Human Genetics

RE: Comments on "Proposed Changes to the National Institute of Health (NIH) Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research and the Proposed Scope of an NIH Steering Committee's Consideration of Certain Human-Animal Chimera Research" (posted electronically to NIH Notice Number: NOT-OD-16-128)

The NIH should continue a moratorium on this kind of research. This is precisely the kind of research that raises significant public concerns and warrants an extended discussion of its benefits and risks.

Moreover, the NIH should extend its comment period as this request for comments came out on August 4 during the quietest summer period and today's deadline, one day after the Labor Day holiday makes it appear that the NIH is trying to limit public comment. I know several religious organizations that have not had time in this last month to have their bioethics committees review this proposal. The absence of outreach to the religious community on this is problematic.

The moratorium on NIH funding for the creation of human/animal chimera, should be expanded to prohibit funding of "research in which human pluripotent stem cells are introduced into non-human primate (AND OTHER MAMMAL) embryos up through the end of the blastocyst stage."

Thank you for the chance to comment, but please extend the comment period for another 60 days to allow all who wish to comment adequate notice.