

Contact: Jill Adleberg
202-543-1155
jadleberg@opa.faseb.org

Research Scientists Renew Condemnation of Efforts to Clone Babies Urge Ban on Human Reproductive Cloning to Protect Health and Safety of Mothers and Children

Bethesda, Md. – In response to today’s claim of the first cloned child, the largest coalition of biomedical research scientists renewed its call for a ban on human reproductive cloning and urged severe sanctions for any scientists assisting in such dangerous activity.

“The substantial risks to both mothers and children posed by human reproductive cloning make it both medically dangerous and morally unacceptable. Reproductive cloning of animals is associated with significantly increased rates of miscarriage, deformity and morbidity. No respectable scientist could find these risks acceptable to produce a human clone. We urge Congress to approve a ban on human reproductive cloning,” said FASEB President Steven L. Teitelbaum.

In January, a National Academies of Science (NAS) panel examined the scientific and medical issues surrounding human reproductive cloning and recommended a legal ban on the procedure with substantial penalties for any scientists engaged in such irresponsible activity. The panel also endorsed stem cell research involving a technique known as nuclear transplantation, often referred to as “therapeutic cloning.” The NAS panel recommended that this technique be permitted under appropriate ethical guidelines because of its promise as tool to deliver improved treatments and therapies for a host of diseases.

FASEB condemns vigorously any efforts to produce cloned children, but it shares the NAS panel’s call for stem cell research involving the technique of nuclear transplantation. “It would be a human tragedy if we allowed the irresponsible acts of a few zealots to undermine growing public support for stem cell research techniques that offer significant hope to millions of patients and their families,” Teitelbaum concluded.

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) is comprised of 21 societies with more than 60,000 members, making it the largest coalition of biomedical research associations in the United States. The mission of FASEB is to enhance the ability of biomedical and life scientists to improve, through their research, the health, well-being and productivity of all people. FASEB serves the interests of these scientists, particularly in those areas related to public policy. FASEB also facilitates coalition activities among Member Societies and disseminates information on biological research through scientific conferences and publications.

###