



May 21, 2008

Stop playing politics with stem cell research

Contrary to Dr. Donald Condit's portrayal ("State should back proper stem cell research," May 13), embryonic stem cell research is ethical.

From U.S. Sens. Trent Lott to Carl Levin, there is broad bipartisan support for expanding human embryonic stem cell research because it promises to relieve human suffering. U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch called it the "pro-life" position.

The embryos that would be used for this research are being thrown away by fertility clinics. Michigan scientists want to use these discarded embryos to develop treatments to help Michigan families.

Michigan's laws don't stop the destruction of human embryos; they only delay medical research. Wisconsin, Illinois, Maryland, California and others believe the research is so important that they are funding work that scientists would be imprisoned for in Michigan.

The American Medical Association and all of the presidential candidates -- John McCain, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama -- support it.

It is time for the Michigan State Medical Society to stop playing politics and get on the side of patients in this war against disease.

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