



Everything Michigan

---

## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

### transcend controversy

Tuesday, February 24, 2006

From the Sturgis Journal

With some of the most restrictive embryonic stem-cell research laws in the nation, the debate over research opportunities in Michigan is heating up.

The University of Michigan is already a leader in the field of stem cell research -- for those cells obtained from adults. But embryonic stem cell research offers even more advanced opportunities.

According to Sean Morrison, a University of Michigan researcher, embryonic stem cells have advantages over adult cells. Embryonic stem cells could provide access to every type of cell in the body, offering cures for afflictions such as Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and juvenile diabetes.

Perhaps the current bills in the House, House Bills 4900-4902, are not the end-all answer to this very personal issue. Issues raising concerns among the state's Right to Life organizations and the state's Catholic Conference have merit.

The problem with the current state law is that it prohibits state researchers from getting to embryos left over from fertility treatments. Instead, those embryos are often thrown away, throwing out with them any chance for further medical research that could help millions.

The current house bills are too extreme: They would permit cloning for research purposes. There has to be some way to get legislation in our state that would prohibit the unnecessary waste of tissue currently discarded with yesterday's garbage, while still protecting what so many consider a sacred creation.

We would hate to see Michigan left out in the cold yet again with other states moving forward both economically and medically. Stem-cell research is going to be a large part of medical advances in years to come. We must find a way to allow the talented researchers at the University of Michigan to keep us at the forefront in this controversial issue.

©2006 Kalamazoo

