

The Stem Cells Road to Ruin

A Diary of Mankind in Despair

[Foreword]

A “Diary of a Man in Despair” told the story of a German patriot, who in the 1930’s saw his beloved nation spiraling towards social chaos and ruin in the name of social order; but he was powerless to stop the Nazi tide. Once again, a perilous future confronts mankind. We can deny reality, choosing to believe that religion and morals stand in the way of ‘miracle’ stem cell cures – as the Jews of pre-war Germany allegedly suppressed the ‘golden age’ of Aryan Race – or we can face hard facts.

Mankind stands ankle deep in the biotech age, wondering where to go, whom to trust. Moral debates concerning embryonic stem cells and human cloning have raged since 2001. Is there a “right” and “wrong” in these issues? Should mankind travel these paths for the sake of treatments and cures, or avoid them like the plague? What are the options and which are the best?

Rates of disease and disability are sharply increasing, as are medical costs. Between 2000 and 2006, worker health care premiums rose 5.1 times faster than worker incomes. But compared to what’s in store for us, today’s “runaway” health care costs have barely begun to rise. Our present three-to-one ratio of workers to retirees is projected to become two-to-one by 2040, and this bleak reality doesn’t include increasing numbers of those needing chronic medical care due to

disability or disease, or growing rates of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Motor Neuron Disease, Cancer, Heart Disease, and Diabetes.

Simply put, mankind desperately needs science to produce...now! Throughout the stem cells debates it's been claimed that religion and morals stand in the way of science. However, seldom have we asked, "where does science want to go?" Or, "Do the goals of science and industry reflect society's needs?"

"The Stem Cells Road to Ruin" suggests that the course of science is far too critical to mankind's future to be directed by ungrounded hype and research frauds for political, social, and financial gain. The outcome of the stem cells and cloning debates will determine not only what mankind becomes, but also what becomes of us. *Because* of stem cell moral debates the public is considering the practical worth of biomedical science. This is a crucial step in the right direction, because in the coming decades mankind and Earth cannot afford to squander tens of billions of research dollars and its best minds on unproductive science. However, to effectively choose our stem cells course we need their moral and practical truths...and the courage to face them.

Research related industries have promoted and distorted these issues so loudly and so consistently that ungrounded hype is widely accepted as fact. Rather than being weighed and judged on actual facts, these issues have become ingrained with social causes that have nothing to do with research practicality, such as politics, opposition to the war in Iraq, and religious beliefs. While these social agendas have nothing to do with research practicality, they may have everything to do with the needless suffering of millions.

Our initial choice is simple: To face the ‘stem cells and human cloning’ issues head on – to consider their facts in deciding our course – or let others choose it for us. Either way, mankind will face the consequences.