

Slide 1

Stem Cell Research in a  
Catholic Institution?  
*Yes or No?*

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Slide 2

The No Perspective:  
*Three Reasons Not to Use  
Embryonic Stem Cell Lines*

- Supply and demand - the “spare” embryos debate.
- Managing institutional perceptions.
- Lessons from the investment world.

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Slide 3

Supply and Demand

- The use of “left over” embryos from IVF fertility clinics.
- Revisiting *Donum Vitae (1987)*.
- Complicity, benefit and encouragement?
- The “veritable culture of death”.

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Slide 4

Managing Institutional Perceptions

- An *institutional* decision.
- What kind of education is required?
- How many generations removed?
- Cooperation and the reasonability test. Can I unknow something? Tricking ourselves.
- Resource allocation guidelines – is the institution willing to forgo financial benefit if it says no?
- Question: Is the institution prepared?

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Slide 5

Lessons from the Investment World

- “Ethical funds”.
- Learning to ask the right questions.
- The moral responsibility of shareholders.
- The cost associated with investments - is it worth it? Alternative “investments”.
- Informed consent – do patients have a right to know the source of their grafts, etc?

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Slide 6

The haunting question

- Would it look different if I could benefit from embryonic stem cell research? My spouse? My kids?
- What would it take for me to become comfortable, if ever?
- Reasonable doubt
- What haunts me? What is scandalous?

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