



The Institute for Science & Interdisciplinary Studies presents

# Crisis in Bioethics: Stem Cells, Human Clones and Social Issues

## The Promise of Stem Cell Research

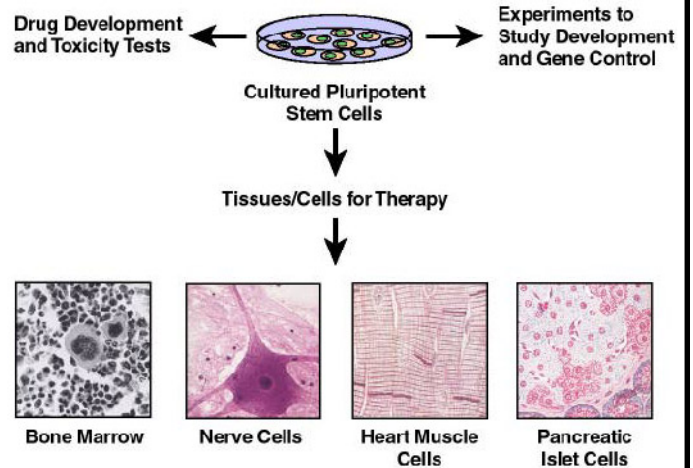


Image courtesy of <http://www.nih.gov/news/stemcell/primer.htm>

## ASH Auditorium, Hampshire College 1:30 pm, Friday January 18

Stem cells are parts of a human embryo that can turn into any kind of tissue. If produced in the lab, they could provide replacement tissue for bone marrow transplants, organ repair, help for victims of paralysis, and so on. But is it moral to produce embryos—even in very early stages—for the express purpose of repairing another individual?

**Dr. Everett Mendelsohn**, world-renowned historian of biology and analyst of international scientific and social concerns, will explain the latest “discoveries” and the questions bioethicists are debating. This illustrated lecture is free and open to the public.

In the complex history of molecular and developmental biology, nothing has been more provocative or controversial than the cloning of higher organisms. When the sheep Dolly gave us an object lesson that mammals could be cloned, many people began worrying about what would happen if we cloned humans or human tissues. The recent announcement by a private firm that it had cloned a human sparked intense bio-ethical interest. While the announcement actually overstated the achievement (the embryos had progressed so little in their development that they lacked specific stem cell precursors), the work done is important and—if it can be replicated and advanced—suggests that the cloning of full embryos might be possible. But even if those steps never come about, the implications are tremendous.

Dr. Everett Mendelsohn is a Harvard Professor of the History of Science and is the Master of Dudley House, the graduate student center. He is the founder of two journals; author, co-author or editor of four books; and contributor of numerous articles on the history of biological sciences. Dr. Mendelsohn is also past president of the International Council for Science Policy Studies and has been deeply involved in studying the relationship between science and modern war. An excellent teacher, mentor and lecturer, he was the 1994 Olof Palme Professor in Sweden, and received the Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize.

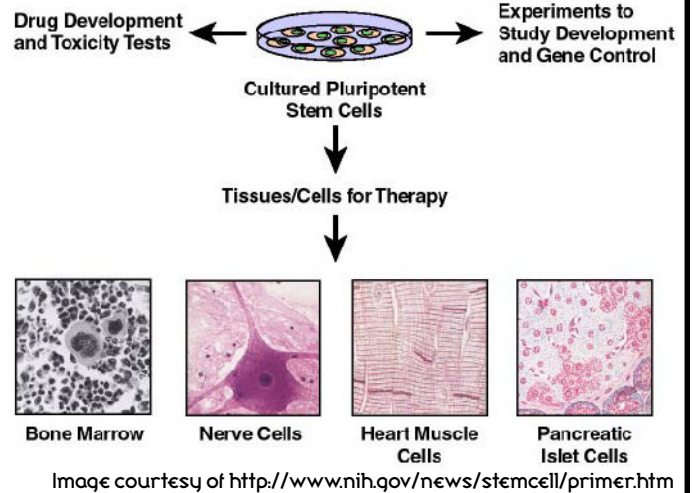
For more information, please contact ISIS at 559-5582 or [isis@hampshire.edu](mailto:isis@hampshire.edu).

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