American Parkinson Disease Association

EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

- While this 2018 article explains what human embryonic stem cells are, the American Parkinson's Disease Association doesn't specifically say if it does or does not fund the utilization of human embryonic stem cells in therapy for Parkinson's. However, it is implied that APDA does not condemn the use of human embryonic stem cells by its vague answer:

  "Does APDA fund any stem cell research? APDA is committed to funding research to further our understanding of PD and to bring new treatments to patients as quickly as possible."

- In a Fall 2007 newsletter, Jessica Hahn, coordinator of the American Parkinson Disease Assocation's Information and Referral Center, wrote an article on the "benefits" of using human embryonic stem cells, despite the controversy of utilizing them. She writes:

  "Using embryonic stem cells to replace dopamine neurons lost in people with Parkinson's disease may be possible someday, but not in the very near future. Attempts to treat humans with fetal cells (which are like embryonic stem cells) have been unsuccessful. It would be very unfortunate if people delayed having other types of therapy expecting to have stem cell treatments. We can, ***however, see embryonic stem cells being used in the future as a means of delivering other kinds of biological substances such as nerve growth factor, to the brain.****"* (p. 3)

- In an email reply to American Life League on 9/5/2023, the American Parkinson Disease Association confirmed its support for research utilizing human embryonic stem cells:

  "APDA does not currently support research that utilizes human embryonic stem cells, although this would not be a limitation for us if a potential researcher applies for funding in the future."

  -Rebecca Gilbert, MD, PhD|Senior Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer

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Mission

Provide support, education, and research to help everyone impacted by Parkinson's disease live life to the fullest.

Focus

neurology, neuroscience, brain and nervous system disorders