

DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

Dialogue 5

Do Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells Have Souls? Imaginative Tools to Resolve Ethical Standoffs

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Duquesne University, Pittsburgh

Noon, Friday, April 25, 2008

Mailman Center for Child Development, Room 3023

—————> Lunch will be provided <—————
(No RSVPs required)

Some religious perspectives and current federal funding policy oppose human embryonic stem cell research that uses unwanted frozen embryos or somatic cell nuclear transfer. Recent advances in direct nuclear programming appear to resolve concerns about deriving stem cells from human blastocysts, and opponents to cloning technology appear to welcome these achievements. However, these breakthroughs raise profound questions about early human life. Perhaps the most significant contribution of this astounding new science is to provide an imaginative paradigm for clarifying the meaning of early human life – and thereby expanding the time-frame for ethical scientific intervention.

Professor Magill holds the Vernon F. Gallagher Chair for the Integration of Science, Theology, Philosophy, and Law at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. In addition to editing five books and writing more than 60 essays in scholarly or professional journals, he was the lead author of a national report, “*Ethics Consultation Liability*,” commissioned in 2004 by the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. Professor Magill’s visit is in special collaboration with Sister Emmanuel Hospital in Miami, an affiliate of Mercy Hospital.

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