Guidance for Investigators Requesting to Add hESC Lines to the UW-Madison hESC Registry

The UW-Madison Stem Cell Research Oversight (SCRO) Committee provides oversight for all research on campus involving campus faculty or staff that involves either: 1) the use of human embryonic stem cells or their derivatives; or 2) the introduction of human pluripotent stem cells, or their derivatives, obtained from a non-embryonic source, into non-human animals at any embryonic, fetal, or postnatal stage, if an expected effect is that human cells will be integrated into the central nervous system, testes, or ovaries of the animal. This oversight applies regardless of funding source. **Only those hESC lines which appear on NIH’s hESC Registry may be used with federal funds.**

UW-Madison policy requires the SCRO Committee to approve the use of new hESC lines before they are used by UW-Madison researchers. The SCRO Committee reviews documentation of provenance of the hESC line to determine whether such provenance is in accordance with UW-Madison’s “Policy for Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research”. Once the SCRO Committee has approved the provenance as consistent with UW-Madison policy, that hESC will be added to UW-Madison’s hESC Registry, and may be used by investigators without providing additional documentation of provenance within their SCRO initial review application.

hESC lines listed on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) hESC Registry as of December 2, 2009, and those hESC lines previously approved by NIH on May 9, 2007, are included in UW-Madison’s hESC Registry and do not need their provenance re-reviewed by the SCRO Committee.

Investigators requesting to add a new hESC line to UW-Madison’s hESC Registry should submit to the SCRO Committee the consent document used for donation of the embryos for research (see #5 and #6 below), the notice of approval from the IRB that reviewed and approved the protocol for embryo donation, and that part of the IRB application or protocol which addresses the consent process. The SCRO Committee will review the materials submitted to determine whether provenance of the hESC lines is consistent with Sections 10 - 15 of the University’s “Policy for Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research”, as set forth below; however, the SCRO Committee may decide that provenance of the hESC line was ethical and appropriate even if the procurement process differs slightly from the Policy. Investigators should address in a written document to the SCRO Committee any aspect of the procurement process that differs from the Policy (http://www.grad.wisc.edu/admin/committees/scro/hpsepolicy.pdf). The UW-Madison Policy for Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research is based on recommendations from the National Academies and the International Society for Stem Cell Research Guidelines for the conduct of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research. In considering whether anything differs from the policy, please address:
1) Was the attending physician responsible for the infertility treatment and the investigator deriving or proposing to use hESCs the same person? If it was the same person, please provide justification.

2) Were cash or in kind payments provided for donating pre-implantation embryos in excess of clinical need for research purposes? If yes, please provide justification.

3) Were gamete or embryo donors compensated? If compensated, please explain compensation levels, and address whether that compensation is consistent with the following:
   a. Women who undergo hormonal induction to generate oocytes specifically for research purposes (such as for nuclear transfer) may be reimbursed for direct expenses incurred as a result of the procedure, as determined by an appropriate Institutional Review Board. Oocytes and sperm donors may be compensated at a level consistent with compensation provided for *in vitro* fertilization donors at the locale where the donation occurs. In locales where reimbursement for research participation is allowed, there must be a detailed and rigorous review to ensure that reimbursement of direct expenses or financial considerations of any kind do not constitute an undue inducement. Due to the unknown long-term effects of ovulation induction, women should not undergo an excessive number of hormonally induced ovarian stimulation cycles in a lifetime.¹

4) Were potential donors of pre-implantation embryos informed of all available options for the disposition of their embryos, including donation to others for reproductive purposes as well as destruction? If no, please provide rationale.

5) Did donors provide specific informed consent for donation to stem cell research after their clinical care was completed? Were donors informed that they retain the right to withdraw consent until the embryos are actually used to derive embryonic stem cells or until information which could link the identity of the embryo donor(s) with the embryo is no longer retained, if applicable? Were embryo donors told that once the embryos had been transferred to a researcher, they would no longer be usable for clinical purposes? If no to any of the above, please provide justification.

6) In the context of donation of gametes or pre-implantation embryos for hESC research, did the informed consent process include following information? If any of the information below was not included, please provide justification.
   (a) A statement that the pre-implantation embryo or gametes will be used to derive hESCs for research that may include research on human transplantation.
   (b) A statement that the donation is made without any restriction or direction regarding who may be the recipient of transplants of the cells derived, except in the case of autologous donation.

¹ Based on International Society for Stem Cell Research, Guidelines for the Conduct of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research Recommendations 11.5b(ii) and (v).
(c) A statement as to whether the identities of the donors will be readily ascertainable to those who derive or work with the resulting hESC lines.

(d) If the identities of the donors are retained (even if coded), a statement as to whether donors wish to be contacted in the future to receive information obtained through studies of the cell lines.

(e) An assurance that participants in research projects will follow applicable and appropriate best practices for donation, procurement, culture, and storage of cells and tissues to ensure, in particular, the traceability of stem cells. (Traceable information, however, must be secured to ensure confidentiality.)

(f) A statement that derived hESCs and/or cell lines might be kept for many years.

(g) A statement that the hESCs and/or cell lines might be used in research involving genetic manipulation of the cells or the mixing of human and nonhuman cells in animal models subject to approval of the appropriate institutional committee.²

(h) Disclosure of the possibility that the results of study of the hESCs may have commercial potential and a statement that the donor will not receive financial or any other benefits from any future commercial development.

(i) A statement that the research is not intended to provide direct medical benefit to the donor(s) except in the case of autologous donation.

(j) A statement that embryos may be destroyed in the process of deriving hESCs.

(k) A statement that neither consenting nor refusing to donate embryos for research will affect the quality of any future care provided to potential donors.

(l) A statement of the risks involved to the donor.

7) Did researchers ask members of the infertility treatment team to generate more oocytes than necessary for the optimal chance of reproductive success? Was the infertility clinic or other third party responsible for obtaining consent or collecting materials paid for the material obtained (except for specifically defined cost-based reimbursements and payments for professional services)?

Note: Additional information may be requested.

² Follows National Academies, Guidelines for Human Embryonic Stem cell Research, Recommendation 18 (g), which requires the consent process to include ‘A statement that the hES cells and/or cell lines might be used in research involving genetic manipulation of the cells or the mixing of human and nonhuman cells in animal models.’ The ISSCR and NIH Guidelines have no similar requirement.