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Organization:

IES Group (Elena Cattaneo, Giovanna Lazzari, Federica Sangiuolo,
Salvatore Oliviero, Fulvio Gandolfi, Gianluigi Condorelli, Elisabetta Cerbai)

Please, confirm the attendance by **July 10, 2007** at the following email address:
info@politeia-centrostudi.org, or by fax: +39 02 58314072.

**GROUP OF THE ITALIAN RESEARCHERS ON
EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS
(IES GROUP)**

2nd National Congress

**RESEARCH ON EMBRYONIC
STEM CELLS:**

**The reasons for a commitment to science
and to the country**

ROME, JULY 12, 2007

9:00 - 18:00

***Sala delle Colonne – Palazzo Marini
Camera dei deputati, via Poli / angolo via del Tritone***

Research on embryonic stem cells is often at the center of several controversies. Last year the public discussion was fueled by the decision of Minister Mussi to withdraw the Italian support to the “pregiudiziale etica”, the ethical declaration through which some countries tried to affect the European Parliament vote on the 7th framework program in order to preclude European funding for this field of research.

Because we considered the Minister’s decision farsighted and wise, we got together on July 14, 2006 in Rome, as Italian researchers working on human embryonic stem cells to present our research in this field, and to discuss also the ethical and legal implications. We sent an open letter to the Prime Minister to underline the importance of the ongoing research effort on the already established human embryonic stem cell lines.

The great interest that arose from the meeting soon led us to plan a new edition, and to make it a recurrent appointment every year. As scientists we are used to work to render the interaction between research and society smoother, and to publicly show the results we obtain and our plans for the future. We are used to submit ourselves to transparent evaluation without hesitation – by both the public and the scientific community. We are used to undergo critical assessment of what has been obtained and what is still planned. This allows those who have different ideas, opinions, and also objections (both scientific, and ethical) to express them in a civil and reasoned forum. This is the only way, we believe, to face the new opportunities that science offers and the questions that it opens.

This kind of discussion is essential and pivotal to us, not only because it complies with the scientific method, but mainly because we believe it helps the growth of societies, and strengthens democracy.

We consider this way of stimulating the discussion even more appropriate and necessary today, since in the past months the critical voices led to compare our research that uses embryonic stem cells – established in vitro a number of years ago – to the hideous criminal acts that were carried out in extermination camps such as Auschwitz.

In the light of ongoing attempts to criminalize research on embryonic stem cells, we feel obliged to firmly defend the scientific, moral and social value of our work by presenting a **Manifesto**, which shows the reasons that lead us to employ ourselves and our intellectual energies and resources also in this field.

At the round table and during the discussion with the public the issues presented in the **Manifesto** will be critically evaluated. Attendance to the meeting is free and open.

- 09.00 **Registration**
Chair: Maurizio Mori, Consulta di Bioetica e Università di Torino
Antonino Forabosco, Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia
- 09.30 **Reasons for the Meeting**
- 09.40 Ignazio Marino, Presidente Commissione Igiene e Sanità del Senato
The role of institutions in sustaining scientific research
- 10.00 Lucio Luzzatto, Università di Firenze
Introduction to the scientific works

STATE OF THE ART: WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND WHAT WE WILL DO

- 10.20 *Initial Lecture*
Tiziano Barberi, Beckman Research Institute of The City of Hope, Duarte, California
Embryonic stem cells and the differentiation and transplantation of muscle cells
- 10.50 *Discussion*
Elena Cattaneo, Università di Milano
Embryonic and adult stem cells for the study of neuronal differentiation and neurological diseases
Giovanna Lazzari, Laboratorio di Tecnologie della Riproduzione, Cremona
Embryonic stem cells for the study of toxicology
Federica Sangiuolo, Università di Roma Tor Vergata
Embryonic stem cells for the study of cystic fibrosis
Salvatore Oliviero, Università di Siena
Differentiation of embryonic stem cells into endothelial cells
Fulvio Gandolfi, Università di Milano
Parthenogenetic stem cells
Gianluigi Condorelli, Università di Roma La Sapienza
Embryonic stem cells for the study of heart repair
Elisabetta Cerbai, Università di Firenze
Embryonic stem cells for the study of the biology of heart differentiation
- 12.40 *Concluding Lecture*
Marisa Jaconi, Università di Ginevra
Application of embryonic stem cells in heart repair
- 13.00-13:30 **Discussion with the public - Lunch Break**

ROUND TABLE: IS RESEARCH ON EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS MORAL?

- 15.00 Chair: Demetrio Neri, Centro Studi Politeia e Università di Messina
- 15.10 Fabio Marazzi, Università di Bergamo
Profile of the legal aspects of embryonic stem cell research in Italy and Europe
- 15.30 Demetrio Neri
Presentation of the Manifesto with questions
Answers from Giuseppe Benagiano, Maurizio Calipari, Eugenio Lecaldano,
Sergio Rostagno, Mario Scialoja
- 17.00 **Discussion with the public**
- 17.30 Marco Cappato, European Parliamentarian
Antonio Del Pennino, Senator of the Republic
Lanfranco Turci, Deputy of the Republic
The duty of the politics
- 18.00 Closing of day