

FOREWORD

The Bioethics Advisory Committee (BAC) was appointed by Cabinet in December 2000 to examine ethical, legal and social issues arising from research on human biology and behaviour and its applications, and to develop and recommend policies to the Ministerial Committee for Life Sciences on these issues, with the aim to protect the rights and welfare of individuals, while allowing the development of the biomedical sciences for the benefit of mankind.

Since February 2001, the Human Stem Cell Research (HSR) Subcommittee of the BAC has extensively addressed the ethical, legal and social issues arising specifically from human stem cell research, including the issues of human therapeutic cloning and human reproductive cloning.

A thorough public consultation process was conducted to obtain input and views from our Singapore community on these issues. The BAC received written submissions from religious, patient, professional, research and medical groups, held dialogue sessions with the various groups to discuss and understand views, and obtained many letters from the general public. After extensive research, careful consideration of community feedback and much deliberation, the BAC has come up with its recommendations in its report, *Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues in Human Stem Cell Research, Reproductive Cloning and Therapeutic Cloning*.

I would like to extend the Committee's sincere thanks to the expert writers who submitted papers to the BAC, as well as to the numerous community groups and individuals who provided their thoughtful feedback. I would also like to thank my fellow Committee members, especially Chairman of HSR Subcommittee Senior District Judge Richard Magnus, for their commitment and efforts to ensure that the report and its recommendations were responsible and respectful of the wide variety of thoughtful views presented to the Committee.

It is my pleasure to present to you the BAC report on human stem cell research and cloning in Singapore.

Prof Lim Pin
Chairman
Bioethics Advisory Committee
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