



MEDIA RELEASE

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University of Sydney agreement with St John's College

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR), the peak organization representing health and medical research scientists, supports the legislation approved by the Australian Government on the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer, also known as therapeutic cloning.

Associate Professor Maria Kavallaris, ASMR President, said "ASMR while supporting the use of somatic cell nuclear transfer under the approved legislation and guidelines, recognizes and respects the differing beliefs of many people on this issue."

Speaking of the University of Sydney decision to accept restrictions on the type of research to be carried out on land acquired from the Catholic, St John's Residential College, Associate Professor Kavallaris said, "While this decision does not preclude the conduct of approved stem cell research in facilities on campus other than the proposed new institute building, the question of appropriate use of public funding does arise".

Associate Professor Kavallaris went on to say, "Following lengthy debate and review, the democratic process has resulted in approved legislation and ethical guidelines for the conduct of this type of research. The University of Sydney must carefully weigh these issues and the implications for medical research in Australia".

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