Two National Academy of Sciences expert committees, as well as noted national and international organizations, have evaluated current scientific and medical information and have concluded that cloning a human being using the method of nuclear transplantation cannot be achieved safely. Such attempts in other mammals often have catastrophic outcomes. Furthermore, virtually nothing is known about the potential safety of such procedures in humans. Consequently, there is widespread and strong agreement that an attempt to clone a human being would constitute unwarranted experimentation on human subjects and should be prohibited by legislation that imposes criminal and civil penalties on those who would implant the product of nuclear transplantation into a woman’s uterus.

Unfortunately, some legislation, such as that introduced by Senator Brownback (R-KS) would foreclose the legitimate use of nuclear transplantation technology for research and therapeutic purposes. This would impede progress against some of the most debilitating diseases known to man. For example, it may be possible to use nuclear transplantation technology to produce patient-specific embryonic stem cells that could overcome the rejection normally associated with tissue and organ transplantation. Nuclear transplantation technology might also permit the creation of embryonic stem cells with defined genetic constitution, permitting a new and powerful approach to understanding how inherited predispositions lead to a variety of cancers and neurological diseases such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases.

A critical element of the Brownback bill would prevent the importation into the United States of medical treatments developed in other parts of the world using nuclear transplantation. It seems unbelievable that the United States Senate would deny advanced medical treatment to hundreds of millions of suffering Americans because of an aversion to a technology that was used in its development.

By declaring scientifically valuable biomedical research illegal, Senator Brownback’s legislation, if it becomes law, would have a chilling effect on all scientific research in the United States. Such legal restrictions on scientific investigation would also send a strong signal to the next generation of researchers that unfettered and responsible scientific investigation is not welcome in the United States.

We, the undersigned, urge that legislation to impose criminal and civil sanctions against attempts to create a cloned human being be enacted. We also oppose strongly any legislation that would prohibit or impede the scientifically legitimate, responsible use of nuclear transplantation technology for research and therapeutic purposes. Similarly, any attempt to prohibit the use of therapies in the United States that were developed with the aid of nuclear transplantation technology overseas denies hope for those seeking new therapies for the most debilitating diseases known to man.
Sidney Altman  
Sterling Professor of Biology  
Yale University  
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1989

Kenneth J. Arrow  
Professor of Economics and  
Professor of Operations Research, Emeritus  
Stanford University  
Nobel Prize in Economics, 1972

Julius Axelrod  
Scientist Emeritus  
National Institutes of Health  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1970

David Baltimore  
President and Professor of Biology  
California Institute of Technology  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1975

Paul Berg  
Cahill Professor of Cancer Research and Biochemistry, Emeritus  
Director, Beckman Center for Molecular & Genetic Medicine, Emeritus  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1980

J. Michael Bishop  
University Professor and Chancellor  
University of California, San Francisco  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1989

Thomas R. Cech  
Distinguished Professor  
University of Colorado, Boulder  
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1989

Stanley Cohen  
Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry, Emeritus  
Vanderbilt University  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1986
Elias James Corey
Sheldon Emery Research Professor of Chemistry
Harvard University
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1990

Johann Deisenhofer
Virginia and Edward Linthicum
Distinguished Chair in Biomolecular Science
Regental Professor
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1988

Renato Dulbecco
Distinguished Research Professor
President Emeritus
The Salk Institute
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1975

Edmond H. Fischer
Professor, Emeritus of Biochemistry
University of Washington
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1992

Jerome I. Friedman
Institute Professor
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Nobel Prize in Physics, 1990

Walter Gilbert
Carl M. Loeb University Professor
The Biological Laboratories
Harvard University
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1980

Alfred G. Gilman
Regental Professor and Chairman
Raymond and Ellen Willie Distinguished Chair in Molecular Neuropharmacology
Director, Alliance for Cellular Signaling
Chairman, Department of Pharmacology
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1994

Donald A. Glaser
Professor of Physics and Neurobiology
University of California, Berkeley
Nobel Prize in Physics, 1960
Joseph L. Goldstein  
Regental Professor  
Department of Molecular Genetics  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1985

Paul Greengard  
Vincent Astor Professor  
Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience  
The Rockefeller University  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 2000

Lee Hartwell  
President and Director  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
Professor, Department of Genome Sciences  
University of Washington School of Medicine  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 2001

Dudley Herschbach  
Baird Professor of Science  
Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology  
Harvard University  
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1986

Tim Hunt  
Principal Scientist  
Cancer Research UK  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 2001

Jerome Karle  
Chief Scientist  
Laboratory for the Structure of Matter  
Naval Research Laboratory  
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1985

Arthur Kornberg  
Emma Pfeiffer Merner Professor  
Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1959
Edwin G. Krebs  
Professor Emeritus, Senior Investigator Emeritus  
Department of Pharmacology, Howard Hughes Medical Institute  
University of Washington School of Medicine  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1992

Leon M. Lederman  
Pritzker Professor of Science  
Illinois Institute of Technology  
Nobel Prize in Physics, 1988

Edward B. Lewis  
Thomas Hunt Morgan Professor of Biology, Emeritus  
California Institute of Technology  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1995

William N. Lipscomb  
Abbot and James Lawrence Professor, Emeritus  
Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology  
Harvard University  
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1976

Ferid Murad  
Professor and Chairman  
Department of Integrative Biology, Pharmacology and Physiology  
University of Texas at Houston  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1998

Marshall Nirenberg  
Chief, Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics  
National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute  
National Institutes of Health  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1968

Sir Paul Nurse  
Director-General (Science)  
Cancer Research UK  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 2001

Burton Richter  
Paul Piggot Professor in the Physical Sciences  
Director, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Emeritus  
Nobel Prize in Physics, 1976
Richard J. Roberts  
Research Director  
New England Biolabs  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1993

Phillip A. Sharp  
Institute Professor  
Director, McGovern Institute  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1993

Hamilton O. Smith  
Senior Director of DNA Resources  
Celera Genomics  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1978

Robert M. Solow  
Institute Professor Emeritus  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Nobel Prize in Economics, 1987

E. Donnall Thomas  
Professor of Medicine, Emeritus  
University of Washington  
Member, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1990

Harold Varmus  
President, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
Former Director, National Institutes of Health  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1989

James D. Watson  
President, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory  
Director, National Center for Human Genome Research, NIH, 1989-1992  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1962

Torsten Nils Wiesel  
The Rockefeller University, President Emeritus  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1981

Robert W. Wilson  
Senior Scientist  
Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics  
Nobel Prize in Physics, 1978