



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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AAU STATEMENT ON EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH EXECUTIVE ORDER

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), on the executive order issued today by President Obama on embryonic stem cell research.

On behalf of research universities across America, I want to thank President Obama for his executive order on embryonic stem cell research. This order allows America's medical scientists to do their jobs: pursue scientific inquiry in one of the most promising research areas of our time. Our nation is now able to support this extraordinary basic research, which will not only lead to cures for ailments that afflict millions of people here and around the world but also change fundamentally the way we understand and treat human diseases.

Along with the rest of the scientific community, we look forward to working with the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institutes of Health to craft rules that ensure that embryonic stem cell research is carried out in an ethical manner.

For too long, our nation's scientists have been shackled, denied vital federal funding, while our scientific competitors in other countries have performed groundbreaking research using human embryonic stem cells. Today, those shackles come off, and for that, we thank President Obama and his Administration.

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The Association of American Universities (www.aau.edu) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.