

**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN MEDICAL COLLEGES
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES
COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

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**UNIVERSITY AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATIONS RESPOND TO INJUNCTION ON
FUNDING OF EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH**

Following is a joint statement by the [Association of American Medical Colleges](#), [Association of American Universities](#), [Association of Public and Land-grant Universities](#), and [Council on Governmental Relations](#). It responds to the injunction on federal funding of embryonic stem cell research imposed by a federal district court earlier this week.

The judicial injunction blocking federally funded human embryonic stem cell research not only blocks potential life-saving research but also threatens to undermine the system of peer-reviewed science that has helped make America the unquestioned world leader in scientific discovery.

Embryonic stem cell research holds enormous potential for developing treatments and cures for numerous chronic and fatal diseases. With scientists across the nation positioned to make dramatic advances funded substantially by the National Institutes of Health, this judicial action is particularly disappointing. We hope this injunction will be lifted soon and that the lawsuit will be unsuccessful. As these court actions have made clear, it is imperative that policymakers clarify that federal law unambiguously permits the funding of this critical research.

We are also deeply concerned that the researchers who are plaintiffs in this case have been granted standing to sue the government based primarily on the assertion that they would be “irreparably harmed” by continued funding of embryonic stem cell research. This is judicial intervention in the peer review process, pure and simple. The notion that competition for research funding should be adjudicated in the courts rather than by expert peer review endangers the merit-based system of funding that makes American science the envy of the world. We strongly encourage the federal government to argue forcefully in court against permitting the peer review system to be undermined in this manner.

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