

**The American Society for Cell Biology
Statement on Cloning
January, 1998**

At the request of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, the American Society for Cell Biology recommended in the Spring of 1997 a voluntary international moratorium on human nuclear transfer for the purpose of creating a new human being. This would allow scientists and the public the opportunity to determine the safety and appropriateness of such experimentation.

The ASCB continues to support such a moratorium as a constructive interim response to the concerns raised by the cloning of an adult sheep. However, recent events in the U.S. have escalated and infused new urgency into this debate, resulting in increased demands for regulatory legislation.

The ASCB urges that if legislation is needed, it should specifically be concerned with the reproduction of a human being by nuclear transfer. At the same time, any legislation should not impede or interfere with existing and potential critical research fundamental to the prevention or cure of human disease. This research often includes the cloning of human and animal cell lines and DNA, but not whole human beings.

The National Bioethics Advisory Commission did recommend a three to five year moratorium on human nuclear transfer for the purpose of creating a new human being in order to allow time to evaluate the safety of and public views about such procedures. The ASCB urges that the Commission's recommendation be the basis for any federal legislation.