

# International Collaboration in Stem Cell Research

## The Hinxton Group Process

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# Categories

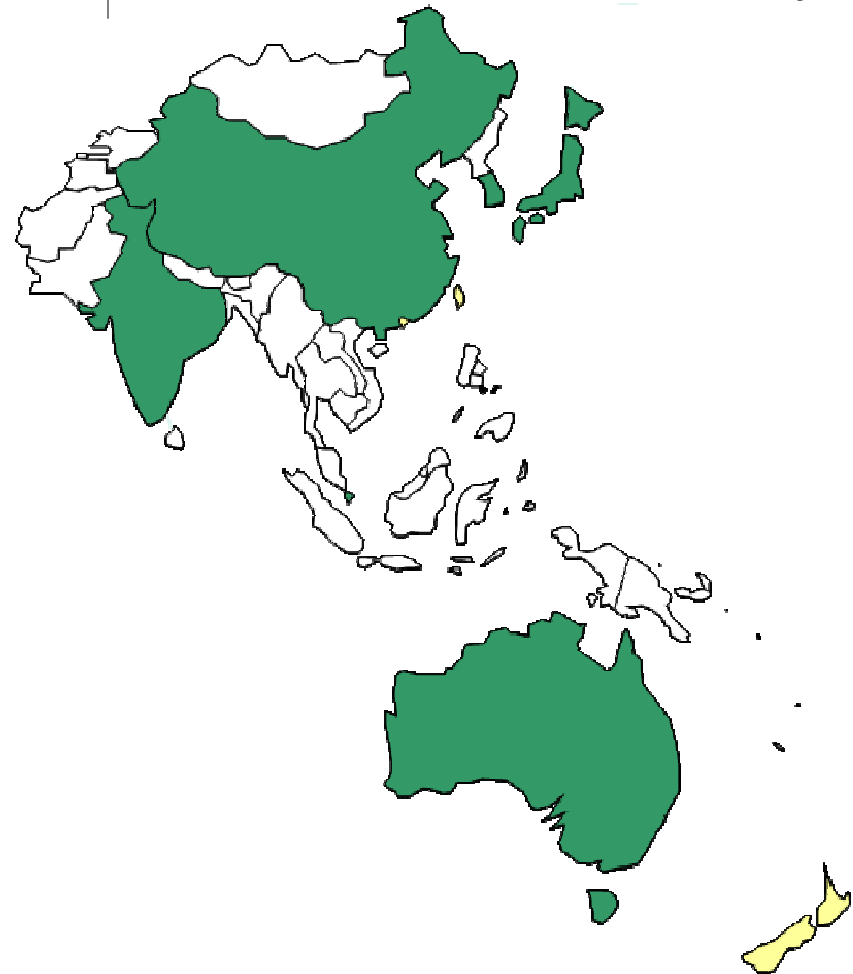
## Stem Cell Research Policy

- **Permissive** (*e.g., SCNT is specifically permitted under certain conditions*)
- **Permissive Compromise** (*e.g., SCNT is prohibited; hESC research using supernumerary IVF embryos is specifically permitted or not prohibited*)
- **Restrictive Compromise** (*e.g., hESC research only permitted using cell lines created before a certain date*)
- **Prohibitive** (*e.g., research using embryos or cell products derived from embryos is prohibited*)
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# Asia & Oceania

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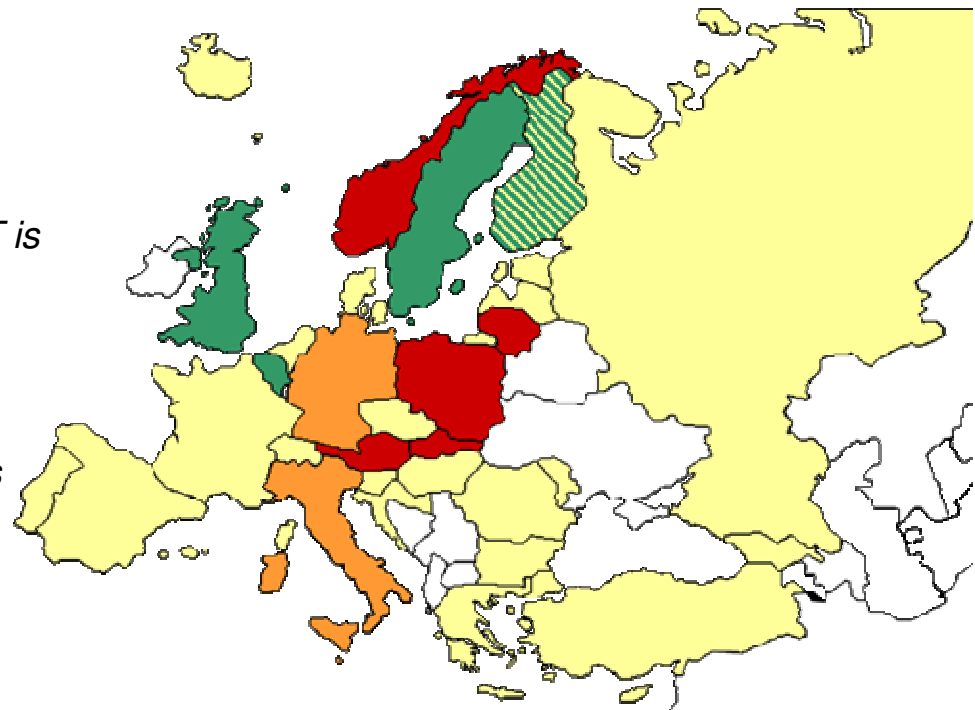
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# Europe

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# Middle East & Africa

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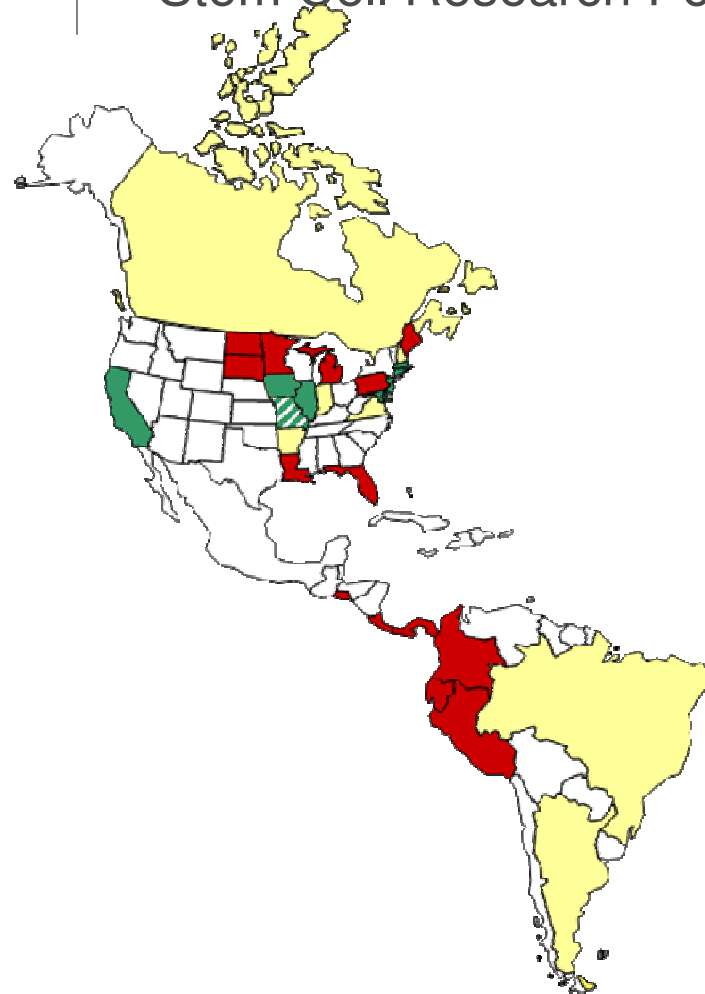
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# The Challenge

- Ethically and politically controversial research
- International discordance in regulation and legal status of hESCR
- Complicated by international nature of scientific publication and collaboration

# Questions

- Is forum shopping okay?
- Whose laws?
- Scientific integrity?
- Ethical integrity?
- Is international policy possible?  
Desirable?

# The Hinxton Group

## Charge

1. Identify the primary challenges faced by scientists, universities and journal editors with respect to international collaboration in SCR
2. Determine the extent to which it may be possible to develop guidance for conduct that could be useful across national boundaries and national legal regimes
3. Explore the role of oversight and data sharing in international research
4. Identify forward-looking strategies to foster the scientific and ethical integrity of research in a global context

# The Hinxton Group

Details

- ~50 scientists, ethicists, lawyers, policy makers and journal editors
- 14 countries
- 22-24 February 2006
- The Wellcome Trust's Conference Centre, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK

- Consensus statement DRAFT
- Discussion of case studies
- Break-out groups
- Plenary sessions

- Principles
- Forward-looking strategies
- Next steps

1. Minimize harm; risk commensurate with overall benefit
- 2. Lawmakers should be circumspect when regulating science; when enacted, laws should be flexible**
3. Clear and explicit laws
- 4. Where international collaboration is not prohibited by law, research institutions should neither discriminate against nor restrict freedom of investigators**

5. **Circumspection in restricting extraterritorial research**
6. Consultation among scientists, policymakers and the public
7. Journal editors should encourage inclusion of descriptions of author roles in published research

- 8. Submission of cell lines to national or international depositories that subscribe to internationally accepted standards of quality and make lines publicly available**
9. Journal editors should support and promote high standards of scientific peer review; require verification of authenticity; compliance with good cell culture practice; source of cells specified

10. Journal editors should support and promote high standards for ethical integrity in SCR; compliance with local policies; declaration of COIs; request protocols, consent forms, etc., where appropriate
- 11. Human materials donors in hESCR should be regarded as human subjects**
- 12. Creation of a public database for hESCR-related protocols, consent documents, etc.**

13. Further development of guidelines for ethical conduct of hESC research and clinical trials
- 14. Funding bodies must take adequate steps to satisfy themselves that those they fund intend to conduct their research ethically and in compliance with local and national policy and international guidance**
15. Research institutions and labs should provide opportunities for scientists and trainees to engage in ethical discussion, review and education

# Consensus Statement

## Next steps

16. International efforts to engage in “ethical forecasting” to identify future and emerging issues and address them before they materialize
- 17. Development of international consensus around ethical standards and practices in hESCR**
18. Collaboration of international collection of scientists, philosophers, bioethicists, lawyers, clinicians, journal editors and regulators, in consultation with the public to develop such standards
19. Above process should include concerted efforts to engage the global public in honest and realistic conversations about hESCR

Faden R (2006) **The Road to Balanced Oversight.** *Science.* **313** (5789): 891.

Mathews DJH *et al.* (2006) **Integrity in International Stem Cell Research Collaborations.** *Science.* **313** (5789): 921-22.

[www.HinxtonGroup.org](http://www.HinxtonGroup.org)



# The End