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5:33 AM

## Pro-life Democrats criticize Obama On Stem Cell Policy

WASHINGTON (BP)--Democrats for Life of America has called the Obama administration's refusal to consult it on the March 9 executive order revoking a federal funds ban for most embryonic stem cell research "a cooling of our relations", according to Baptist Press Washington.

Democrats for Life said it had an opportunity to express disagreement with the administration before Obama's Jan. 23 order rescinding the Mexico City Policy, which barred federal grants to organizations that promote or provide abortions overseas. But the organization said it had no such opportunity on the issue of stem cell therapy abroad.

"DFLA is against President Obama's decision, period. To frame this decision as a necessity to cure-finding medical research is not accurate," Democrats for Life said, citing successful results in ethical research using non-embryonic stem cells. While Democrats for Life said it still is hopeful that Obama will support the Pregnant Women's Support Act (PWSA), which is part of its 95-10 initiative that seeks to reduce abortions by 95 percent in 10 years in both the US and Mexico stem cell therapy remains a difficult, possibly intractable social issue that continues to split opinion in Washington.

As a policy instituted by President Bush in 2001 limiting the extent of stem cell treatment Mexico City Policy cut off federal funding to groups in countries that wished to perform abortions. President Obama's stem cell order earlier this year overturned this policy. Extracting stem cells from an embryo results in the destruction of the human embryo, and in both the US and Mexico stem cell therapy has not to date been applied to treatments for human beings, while non-embryonic stem cell trials have provided treatments for 73 ailments, according to Do No Harm, a coalition concerned with ethical research.

Others feel like science took a back seat to developing policy in the previous administration, and as Obama overturns former legislation on stem stem cell treatment Tijuana based experts in some areas insist

reversing the Mexico City Policy and conscience clause are important first steps in restoring science to the heart of policymaking.

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Help For Traumatic Brain Injury Patients: 'Adipose-derived' Stem Cells

PRNewswire reports today that Dr. Feng Lin, Director of Research at Bio-Matrix Scientific Group Inc. and Entest BioMedical Inc., stated that he believes that an effective new therapy for traumatic brain injury (TBI) using autologous "adipose-derived" stem cells represents a potential cure for TBI. Regarding stem cell therapy Mexico and Southern California patients suffering from TBI and other head related injuries are only recently seeing the possibility of this kind of treatment for their ailments. According to Dr. Lin, both Bio-Matrix and Entest BioMedical are now studying the "therapeutic effect of fat stem cells on traumatic brain injury-associated brain ischemia and inflammation and replacement of damaged neurons with neuron cells differentiated from fat cells."

Bio-Matrix Scientific Group Inc. and Entest BioMedical Inc. recently submitted a research summary proposal to the U.S. Army with a goal of funding research for traumatic brain injury stem cell treatment Tijuana and other major cities in Mexico being some of the intended target areas for the treatment. BMSN is a San Diego-based biotechnology research and development company. Entest BioMedical Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BMSN. Entest is focusing on stem cell research applications, as well as testing procedures for diabetes. In nearby Tijuana stem cell therapy does not come readily available, and for patients in the US as well, "currently there is no effective therapeutic approach to reverse the initial brain damage caused by trauma," stated Dr. Lin.

"Brain cells or neurons have limited ability for self-repair and spontaneous axonal regeneration. Extensive studies have been focusing on novel therapeutic strategies for traumatic brain injury. In my opinion,

adipose-derived stem cells could possess the capacity for self-renewal and differentiation into diverse cell types such as neural cells. We could be looking at an exciting and potential cure for traumatic brain injury patients."

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) occurs when an external force injures the brain. TBI is a major cause of disability and death worldwide, but especially in young people. Causes include vehicle accidents, falls, violence, as well as explosive blasts in battle fields. In the U.S., approximately 1.5 million new TBI cases occur each year, adding to the almost 6.5 million cases that are permanently affected by the irreversible physical, cognitive, and psychological defects associated with TBI. The total annual economic impact of TBI is approximately \$60 billion. With advances in stem cell treatment Mexico and the United States both will potentially see tremendous benefits for their citizens with traumatic brain injury and other illnesses.

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