

Germany permits ES cell work

Embryonic stem (ES) cell research in Germany got a tentative green signal from the Parliament, which voted in favour of the importation of human ES cells for research purposes. Germany's main research funding body – Deutsche Forschungs-gemeinschaft (DFG) – has now agreed to support the first ES cell research programme at the University of Bonn. Similar to the guidelines imposed by United States President George W. Bush in September 2001, the German authorities will only permit use of ES cells imported before January 2002, and for which written consent has been given by parents of excess IVF embryos, and for which no money has changed hands. The German Parliament will now set up an agency to oversee the research.

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