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of the study and the ethical proposals in the form of nine articles for a legal framework for India reflecting the entire study.

It will appeal to policymakers and scientists for sensitivity and respect for religious traditions that have stood the test of time, and to the medical professionals. The proposals have common grounds on respect for human life, human dignity, sanctity of human life and fundamental right to life.

**J. Charles Davis** is a Catholic Priest of the Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar. He has been Parish Priest, Member of College of Consultors, Judicial



Notary and Consultant for Pastoral, Educational, Health and Social projects. He speaks many languages and is an effective communicator. He is a good writer and publishes articles in areas of bioethics, social ethics and ethics in science and technologies. He is a pro-life activist. He has a Diploma in Teacher Education, Bachelor's degrees in Sociology, Philosophy and Theology and a Master's degree in Philosophy and Religion. He has obtained a Doctorate in Theology with specialization on Bioethics with the grade of Summa-cum-Laude from the Faculty of Theology of Sankt Georgen Graduate School of Philosophy and Theology, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. He is a junior member of European Society for Catholic Theology and an honorary coordinator for German Doctors Funding Agency. He has been Frankfurt University Hospital Chaplain. He teaches Moral Theology, Bioethics and Social Ethics at the Faculty of Theology, Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Pune, India.

### International Acclaim for J. Charles Davis' Book!

J. Charles Davis proposes a sound legal framework for India against embryo consuming research grounded on common natural law. He builds a bridge between Western and Eastern ethical traditions that can absolutely protect the right to life of all humans from the moment of conception. It is a commendable work in simple language for people of all walks of life. The author is a Catholic Priest of the Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar. He has been... a consultant for pastoral, educational, health and social projects. He is a pro-life activist. He is a good writer and publishes articles in areas of bioethics, social ethics and ethics in science and technologies... While congratulating him for this great work, I wish him God's blessings.

*H. E. Most Rev. Dr. Peter Celestine Ojm Cap,  
Bishop of Jammu-Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India*

Father J. Charles Davis gives us a very well documented, balanced, serene and useful document, which indeed should serve in India for establishing the necessary ethical basis for appropriated guidelines on stem cell research.

*H. E. Msgr. Ignacio Corrasco de Paula  
President, Pontifical Academy for Life  
Vatican City, Rome*

This work is an excellent contribution for legislation concerning human embryonic stem cell research, especially for India, where such research is booming without binding legal norms. The author proposes legislative statements in the form of nine articles which stand in absolute prohibition of destruction of human embryos and consequently of the human embryonic stem cell research. All parts of the book are clearly structured, well written and easily understandable.

*Prof. Dr. Ulrich Rhode SJ  
Head of Chair for Canon Law  
Sankt Georgen Graduate School of Philosophy and Theology  
Frankfurt am Main, Germany*

The work of Charles Davis is very up to date, giving the last news about human cloning in the US. He gives good arguments for the dignity of all human beings also in the very beginning of their life in the horizon of different religious backgrounds. He stands convincing for the protection of human embryos. He also helps science and society to find better alternatives in research for regenerative medicine, e.g. with induced pluripotent stem cells and nanotechnology in medicine. This work is an important contribution to conscientize the public, to avoid unethical ways of research and to find moral, reasonable and promising solutions for regenerative medicine.

*Univ.-Prof. Dr. Günter Vrt  
Member of European Group on Ethics and New Technologies, European Commission  
Founder and Former Director of Institute for Ethics in Medicine, University of Vienna  
Former Director of Institute for Moral Theology, University of Vienna  
Former Member of National Ethics Committee, Austria*

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**The Ethics of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research**  
Proposals for a Legal Framework for India



J. Charles Davis



# The Ethics of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Proposals for a Legal Framework for India

J. Charles Davis



ATLANTIC

The stem cell controversy is the ethical debate concerning the creation, treatment, and destruction of human embryos incident to research involving embryonic stem cells.

The status of the human embryo and human embryonic stem cell research is a debatable issue as, with the present state of technology, the creation of a human embryonic stem cell line requires the destruction of a human embryo. Stem cell debates have motivated and reinvigorated the pro-life movement, whose members are concerned with the rights and status of the embryo as an early-aged human life. They believe that embryonic stem cell research instrumentalizes and violates the sanctity of life. The fundamental assertion of those who oppose embryonic stem cell research is the belief that human life is inviolable, combined with the belief that human life begins when a sperm cell fertilizes an egg cell to form a single cell.

The book delves into the ethical problem and discusses a number of pertinent issues. It studies the concept of stem cell and its potentials and tries to provide basic scientific knowledge on stem cell biology in a language understandable even to those outside of the field. It explains the goals of human embryonic stem cell research and the key problem surrounding it and presents various pro and contra philosophical arguments that are used either to support or to oppose it.

It also presents the standpoints of world religions and the legal positions of various countries on human embryonic stem cell research. It deals with the moral status and the personhood of the human embryo in scriptural Hinduism, chiefly of the classical period. It presents the outcome of an empirical survey on public opinion on embryonic stem cell research in India. It presents the findings

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