

Castle: All Areas of Regenerative Medicine Must be Explored -- January 8, 2007

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today issued the following statement regarding Dr. Atala's research paper concerning amniotic fluid stem cells:

"There is no question that the federal government must be committed to exploring all types of research in the areas of stem cells and regenerative medicine, including embryonic stem cells. This research study, while exciting in describing the potential of amniotic fluid cells, in no way replaces the need for expanding the embryonic stem cell policy. The cells are very different -- with embryonic stem cells having the greatest ability to differentiate into all cell types in the body, which is called pluripotency. Amniotic stem cells, which have been studied for years, are multipotent, which means they can turn into some, but not all cells in the body

"None of these stem cells are a replacement for another; rather, what we learn from one form of stem cell research may be key to advances in another area. That is why a significant federal commitment should be made to the area of regenerative medicine and all areas of scientific research that may lead to cures for all Americans."

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