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### **Sydney Uni bans stem cell research on church land. 06/02/2007. ABC News Online**

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## **Sydney Uni bans stem cell research on church land**

The University of Sydney has agreed to ban embryonic stem cell research at its new medical research centre after striking a deal with the Catholic Church.

The deal has sparked concerns about academic freedom within the new research centre. (ABC TV )

The \$350 million medical research institute will be built by 2012 on land currently used by St Johns College - a Catholic on-campus residence.

The university's Senate last night agreed to ban any research on the land that involved the creation or destruction of human life.

But the Senate's undergraduate student representative, Rose Jackson, is worried the university is giving up its independence.

"This is not necessarily going to significantly impact the research that the university can do, but in a principled way I just couldn't support the university entering into a deed that I perceived to be putting really unfair and unnecessary restrictions on the kind of research it can do,"

Ms Jackson is worried it is an attack on academic freedom.

"To put restrictions now on what I really believe to be religious convictions, on a secular university, I just don't think that's appropriate or smart," she said.

Sydney University's vice-chancellor, Gavin Brown, says there are other facilities on campus where embryonic stem cell research can take place.

"The conditions were purely a question of where certain things would be done not whether they could be done," he said.

"We're not actually stopping any university activity but we're respecting some other people's principles."

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