

cloning.org.au

**PRESS  
RELEASE**

**DO NO HARM!**

Australians for Ethical Stem Cell Research

CONTACT: DR DAVID VAN GEND, 0417 007066; 07 46329377 [vangend@machousemedical.com.au](mailto:vangend@machousemedical.com.au)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – TUESDAY November 14<sup>th</sup> 2006

## **TUCH'S SEAWEED TRICK: "PADDED CELL FOR STEM CELLS ONLY CONFIRMS DANGERS OF EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS"**

"Professor Bernie Tuch's tricks with seaweed are laughable. They say nothing about embryonic stem cells (ESCs) except what we already know - that these little troublemakers are so dangerous the only option is to lock them up", according to Dr David van Gend, National Director for Australians for Ethical Stem Cell Research.

"Confined to their seaweed padded-cell, these ESCs still attempted to form teratoma tumours – that is, they still proliferated into an uncontrolled range of different cell types – but were contained, as Tuch writes, "by limiting the amount of space available for the cells to from."

Solitary confinement, quite appropriate for cells so notorious for fatal tumour formation that last month's study on rat Parkinson's found that 4 in every 5 rats treated with ESCs formed teratomas.

"Even Tuch's level of security appears to be inadequate, however, as 20% of the seaweed capsules using mouse ESCs ruptured and let their dangerous felons loose again.

"Tuch's paper – entirely irrelevant to the question of cloning human embryos - shows only one definite finding: that ESCs formed tumours in all the mice they were put in, unless they were wrapped up in seaweed and kept away from the body tissues. So what's new?

"Just how useful is it to have stem cells, which should be getting into and repairing damaged tissue, locked away in a seaweed strait-jacket, entirely useless?

"Compare this to adult stem cells, which do not form tumours and which are now safely used in many conditions – including direct tissue repair of heart muscle, bone, cornea etc etc. (Journal article refs available).

"This article does not 'Solve the Tumour Problem with ESCs'. It only confirms the intractable nature of that problem.

"Above all, given that "the purposes of cloning can be achieved using adult stem cells" (as our leading adult stem cell researcher, Prof Alan Mackay-Sim, told the Senate hearing), how absurd it is to pursue wacky schemes like trapping ESCs in seaweed to limit their harm, when we could simply use adult stem cells safely and directly from our own tissues?" Dr van Gend concluded. END.



A service of  
**CAPITAL MONITOR**  
(02) 6273 4899

Caution:  
Scanned document.  
May contain minor errors

06 11 14 05:23