

**RESOLUTION 28-08A**

**Title:** Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research

**Introduced by:** Domenic R. Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation

**Original Authors:** Donald P. Condit, MD, Patrick J. Droste, MD, and Jay P. LaBine, MD

**Referred to:** Reference Committee E

**House Action:** Adopted as Amended

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Whereas, current MSMS policy “supports federal and state policies that permit use of embryonic stem cells and somatic cell nuclear transfer in basic clinical research,” according to the Official Policies of the Michigan State Medical Society, 2007 edition at [www.msms.org](http://www.msms.org), and

Whereas, a ballot proposal initiative is seeking to reverse Michigan law that, since 1978, limits research destroying human embryos, and

Whereas, human embryos deserve protection from destruction, and

Whereas, the certainty of objectionable human embryo destruction supersedes theoretically beneficial research opportunities and arguments purporting economic benefit for the state of Michigan in jobs, research funding, and potentially profitable commercial ventures, and

Whereas, current MSMS stem cell research policy incorrectly represents MSMS membership, and potential physician members who find human embryonic stem cell research ethically objectionable, and

Whereas, current MSMS stem cell research policy is inconsistent with the MSMS Mission Statement promoting “ethics in the practice of medicine” according to the MSMS Mission Statement at [www.msms.org](http://www.msms.org), and

Whereas, current MSMS stem cell research policy is inconsistent with the AMA Principles of Medical Ethics specifying “A physician shall be dedicated to providing competent medical service with compassion and respect for human dignity and rights,” according to the AMA Principles of Medical Ethics at [www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2512.html](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2512.html), and

Whereas, recent research advances involving non-embryonic stem cell research, including direct reprogramming of adult skin cells into pluripotential cells, demonstrate considerable opportunity for clinical benefit without the ethical conflicts inherent with human embryonic stem cell research; therefore be it

**RESOLVED: That MSMS respect the diversity of opinion amongst Michigan physicians regarding human embryonic stem cell research and that MSMS adopt a neutral position regarding human embryonic stem cell research; and be it further**

**RESOLVED: That MSMS develop through the Bioethics Committee a series of forums over the next year including one at the 2009 House of Delegates to explore the implications of human embryonic stem cell research and provide membership with definitions, research, studies, and ethical considerations.**

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**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**