

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS QUESTION KERRY'S
STATEMENTS ON STEM CELL RESEARCH**

Washington, D.C. --An ad-hoc group of scientists and university professors of medicine on Wednesday (10/27/04) delivered a letter to Democratic presidential nominee Senator John Kerry, challenging many of the statements he has made regarding stem cell research. Among the signatories are several members of Do No Harm: The Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics.

Noting that Sen. Kerry has made the promotion of embryonic stem cell research "a centerpiece of your campaign," the signatories say they are "alarmed" at statements he made that "misrepresent science," and "make exaggerated claims" about the medical potential of embryonic stem cells. The scientists said these claims are "scientifically irresponsible."

"There is too much hype about embryonic stems and at this point there is no data that cures are imminent," said Prof. Micheline Mathews-Roth, a researcher at Harvard, member of Do No Harm, and one of the letter's signatories. "At this time we just don't know and it is inaccurate to get people's hope up."

The letter also shows that there is no scientific consensus that embryonic stem cell and human cloning research are the best and most promising avenues towards treating numerous debilitating diseases and conditions. Indeed, as the letter shows, many in the scientific community have serious doubts and reservations that such research will deliver the promised therapeutic benefits.

To view the letter please visit
www.stemcellresearch.org

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