



The Citizens for Science and Ethics, Inc. has a Constitutional Amendment Petition that states, "no revenue of the state shall be spent on experimentation that involves the destruction of a live human embryo". Here are university responses to questions posed by the Office of Economic & Demographic Research:

Survey Question	FAMU	FAU	FGCU	FIU	FSU	NCF	UCF	UF	UNF	USF	UWF
Does your Institution currently conduct experiments/research that will be impacted by this amendment? If so, please provide detail along with fiscal information.	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	See Separate Word document	No
Does your Institution have state funded staff that in any way could be impacted by this amendment? If so, to what extent?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Is there any other area of your Institution that might be impacted by this amendment?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: Responses based on a survey of the institutions performed on 12/7/06.

NO- If the amendment applies only to activities that involve the actual process of destroying of human embryos to obtain stem cells. YES- If the amendment applies not only to the process of obtaining human embryonic stem cells (HES cells) but also to the use of HES cells obtained by other institutions or entities. One of our faculty members has a collaboration with a company that cultures HES cells, labels the cells with fluorescent probes, fixes (kills) the cells in ethyl alcohol and then sends them to the faculty member. The fixed cells are then separated by a cell sorter. It is possible to develop a finger print of the cells which defines their developmental trajectory. This project is currently not funded. However, there is potential for private funding in this area. Federal funding may be possible in the future given the change in political climate in Washington.

NO- If the amendment applies only to activities that involve the actual process of destroying of human embryos to obtain stem cells. We do not expect to ever have personnel involved in isolating HES cells and creating new cell lines. YES- If the amendment applies not only to the process of obtaining human embryonic stem cells (HES cells) but also to the use of HES cells obtained by other institutions or entities. FSU will be hiring eight new faculty in a cluster hiring initiative on the Interaction of Genotype and Phenotype. It would not be surprising that several of these new faculty members would use HES cells in their research. Furthermore, as new HES cell lines emerge and research programs evolve, a larger component of the biomedical science community at FSU may become involved in research utilizing HES cells. There is potential for private funding in this area. Federal funding may be possible in the future given the change in political climate in Washington. Thus, a prohibition as restrictive as this could dramatically impact the potential for external funding.

There could be serious repercussions to future research in the Medical School. It is likely to impede research in the entire state in bio-medical fields. Out-of-state companies that have expressed interest in forging ties with the medical school which may be less informed in doing so because of such a ban on research. Since the Medical School is just starting, it is impossible to place dollar figures, but there is little question that this would impede research. Two other factors exist. First, there are individual researchers at FIU currently conducting research whose research questions could move them in the direction of using embryonic stem cell research, or some derivative thereof. Second, the amendment can easily be interpreted as prohibiting research that may seem far removed from the "destruction of a live embryo." For example, some analysis of tissue samples that may have been collected outside of Florida, or even secondary data analysis derived from such tissue samples, is likely to be prohibited if state-funded facilities are used or if the researcher received any monetary support from the state.

This may be an issue for our Burnett College of Biomedical Sciences and College of Medicine in their recruitment efforts for new faculty. For example, California Universities are better able to attract top faculty conducting research in the area of embryonic stem cells to their State because of their support for such efforts.