

## **Coalition Statement in Support of Research Using Human Fetal Tissue**

**June 2021**

Our organizations represent scientific, medical, and patient communities dedicated to advancing medical knowledge and improving human health. We support the continued use of human fetal tissue (HFT) in research because it is an indispensable biomedical research tool crucial for life-saving biomedical research.

Research using HFT has led to numerous scientific and medical advances that have saved millions of lives, including the development of vaccines against polio, rubella, measles, chickenpox, adenovirus, and rabies, as well as treatments for debilitating diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, cystic fibrosis, and hemophilia. Fetal tissue was also essential for the development of the first pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent the transmission of HIV, and it remains critical for ongoing clinical research testing new therapies for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), spinal cord injury, and Parkinson's disease.

While some have argued that advances in recent years have reduced the need for HFT, it remains a critical resource for biomedical research. HFT has unique and valuable properties that often cannot be replaced by other cell types. Cells from HFT are more flexible and less specialized than cells from adult tissue and can be more readily grown in culture. This is part of the reason why HFT is used to generate vaccines and to study infectious diseases like Covid-19, Zika, HIV, and other viruses. HFT also remains necessary for ongoing research to understand human development and its impact on disease. It is needed to validate model systems to study the progression of diseases and evaluate new therapeutics. Finally, HFT is essential for validating alternative research approaches.

The longstanding oversight process for research using HFT ensures that it is scientifically meritorious, legal, and ethically sound. This ethical and legal framework requires robust informed consent for tissue donation and prohibits individuals from profiting from acquiring, receiving, or transferring fetal tissue for research.

The use of HFT in biomedical research remains crucial for ongoing biomedical research that could lead to the development of treatments that patients urgently need. As organizations representing scientists, clinicians, and patients driven by a desire to improve the health and well-being of all, we support the continued use of this vital resource.

Academic Pediatric Association  
AIDS Action Baltimore  
AIDS Alabama  
AIDS Cure Research Collaborative  
AIDS Foundation Chicago  
AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC)  
Alliance for Aging Research  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for the Advancement of Science

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Immunologists  
American Brain Coalition  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Pediatric Society  
American Physiological Society  
American Society for Cell Biology  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM)  
American Society of Hematology  
American Thoracic Society  
Americans for Cures  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Independent Research Institutes  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities  
AVAC  
Axis Advocacy  
BEAT-HIV Collaboratory  
Coalition for the Life Sciences  
Council on Governmental Relations  
DARE MDC CAB  
defeatHIV Community Advisory Board  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation  
Endocrine Society  
Equity Forward  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality  
Global Healthy Living Foundation  
Harvard University  
HealthHIV  
HIV Medicine Association  
HIV+Aging Research Project-Palm Springs  
Housing Works, Inc.  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Society for Cell & Gene Therapy (ISCT)  
International Society for Stem Cell Research  
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health  
Johns Hopkins University  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Martin Delaney Collaboratory CAB  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
Medical Students for Choice  
NASTAD  
National Working Positive Coalition  
New York University

NMAC  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
Prevention Access Campaign  
Princeton  
Projekt Information e.V.  
Research!America  
Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Society for Reproductive Investigation  
Society of Family Planning  
Society of Toxicology  
Stanford University  
State University of New York  
Stony Brook University  
Texans for Cures  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research  
The New York Stem Cell Foundation  
Treatment Action Group  
Treatment Education Network (TEN)  
TSC Alliance  
UC San Francisco  
UCLA  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United States People Living with HIV Caucus  
University of California San Diego  
University of California System  
University of California, Davis  
University of California, Irvine  
University of Chicago Medicine  
University of Illinois College of Medicine  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
University of Michigan  
University of Rochester  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Weill Cornell Medicine  
West Virginia University  
Yale University