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A Special Project of the Genetics Policy Institute

Student Society for Stem Cell Research

Humanity - Unity - Service - Vision - Healing

- [Home](#)
- [About SSSCR](#)
- [Chapters](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Media](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Opportunities](#)
- [Take Action](#)

SSSCR is an international network dedicated to the advancement of scientific research for cures.

Media

- [SSSCR in the News](#)
- [TV & Radio](#)
- [Press Releases](#)
- [Editorials](#)
- [Inquiries](#)

"It is very tempting to give up, yet we have to find the will to keep going. But even when we discover what motivates us, we realize that we can't go the distance alone." - Christopher Reeve

SSSCR in the News

Review of New Clubs

By Ophelia Young
New University
September 18, 2006

Student Society for Stem Cell Research

The controversy over stem cell research has amplified in recent years with advancing biological technology. Because stem cell research uses human embryos, some critics view it as a violation of the sanctity of human life.

Sharyn Rossi, second-year graduate student in anatomy and neurobiology, and Monica Sieganthaler, fourth-year graduate student in anatomy and neurobiology, have worked together to start the UCI chapter of

the national Student Society for Stem Cell Research, a club intended to “educate the public about stem cell research and eliminate any previous misconceptions about stem cell research,” according to Rossi.

The journal “Fertility and Sterility” said that there were at least 396,526 human embryos in storage as of April 11, 2002. Though most of them will be used for attempts at pregnancy, thousands of unclaimed embryos will be either destroyed or stored indefinitely.

“But these embryos would be thrown away anyway, so if [critics] really valued life, why not use them?” Rossi said. “Stem cells are important biological tools. They have the ability to become any cell in the body. ... We would have a constant supply of these cells if only our government would fund us.”

Because stem cell research has become not only a scientific issue but an ethical, social and political one as well, SSSCR welcomes members from all majors, “even if people have no idea what stem cell research is.”

SSSCR is a national organization, and UC Irvine will be its 15th chapter.

SSSCR will be recruiting at their booth on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Welcome Week. Their first meeting will be a gathering at 4 p.m. on Thursday in the courtyard between Hewitt Hall and Sprague Hall.

Please contact Sharyn Rossi and Monica Sieganthaler at SSSCR.UCI@gmail.com or (949) 824-3265 for more information.

[Back to article list](#)

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