

報 告

## ヒト胚研究の倫理

玉井真理子<sup>1)</sup>, 稲垣かずみ<sup>1)</sup>, 蔵田伸雄<sup>2)</sup>

### **Ethics of human embryonic stem cell research**

The human embryonic stem cell (hES-cell) is produced from a fertilized human egg at the early embryonic stage. The hES-cell is capable of differentiating itself into any type of tissue, such as nerves and bones. It is very versatile.

The hES-cell by itself cannot grow to be an individual organism. In other words, it does not possess totipotency. However, there exists a wide variety of applications with the hES-cell. For instance, tissues for transplantation could be mass-produced in a test tube.

In December 1998, the Bioethics Committee, an advisory body to the Prime Minister of Japan, appointed the Human Embryo Subcommittee. The subcommittee submitted a written proposal to regulate the hES-cell research after over one year of debate. The proposal states that the hES-cell research shall be allowed if and only if a surplus embryo, as a byproduct of fertility treatment, is available and used for research purposes.

The proposal mandates that an informed consent from the embryo donor be obtained, private information be protected, and the research proposal be examined by two levels of examination: the committee within a facility where the research takes place and the national government.

However, the Human Embryo Subcommittee could not agree on issues of possible commercial uses of the research results and patents. Regulations regarding these issues were not proposed.

After this proposal was formally made known to relevant researchers and research facilities, research proposals have been submitted by them.

In the United States, it was agreed that reaching a nationwide consensus on the issue of the hES-cell research would be impossible. The federal government instead took the stance that the federal government should show its support or abstention through funding. The National Institute of Health recently formulated the guidelines, the National Institute of Health Guidelines for Research Using Human Pluripotent Stem Cells, August 25 th,

1) 信州大学医療技術短期大学部心理学研究室; TAMAI Mariko, INAGAKI Kazumi, Dept. of Psychology, School of Allied Medical Sciences, Shinshu Univ.

2) 三重大学人文学部; KURATA Nobuo, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Mie Univ.





































にない。

生物医学技術の売買と消費は、公平と公正の拡大にどう影響するのか。人権など深刻な問題には異文化的・国際的・多面的アプローチが必要とされているのだから、北米の哲学者と政策アナリストも、米国の政策よりも人間の尊厳やヒト生成物の非商品化を考察している、ユネスコなど国際組織の医学研究方針にもっと注意を払うべきだ。

ゲロン EAB は幹細胞研究における社会的公正の問題を指摘した。この問題に答えるには、公正の拡大概念に自主を含め、市場活動の制限にもっと注意を払い、「国境を越えた (trans-national)」組織による医学研究と治療を理解する必要がある。

受付日：2000年10月3日

受理日：2000年10月13日