



The continued existence of stem cell therapy as the practice of medicine is at stake. As a provider of stem cell therapies, I am sure that you have seen a change in the perception of stem cells clinics. You are probably well aware of the fact that there are some significant entrenched interests, such as the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), that are working hard to discredit the field of regenerative medicine and the use of stem cells. Their goal is not only to close down every stem cell clinic, but also to change the laws in all civilized countries to outlaw these therapies and deny patients access to these medical treatments.

We think that these interests are highly motivated by the bio-pharmaceutical industry whose goal is to create stem cells in a vial for mass production. These organizations do not speak for patients or physicians. We need to fight these interests in the name of access to investigational care, medicine, and patient safety.

Through a high powered public relations agency, the ISSCR has garnered immense public attention and continues to dominate the media with its message of “exposing” stem cell clinics. On July 26, National Public Radio did a piece on foreign stem cell clinics [selling hope rather than science](#). A few months ago, 60 minutes ran a segment that called stem cell therapy the 21<sup>st</sup> century “snake oil.” The terms that are being used to describe stem cell clinics in these articles range from “rouge” to “predator.” No clinic, regardless of its location, is now safe from these accusations. Failure to address these allegations in a comprehensive method will result in widespread clinic closure and the end of physician driven medicine.

We cannot allow this.

The ICMS will not stand by to allow the ISSCR or any other entrenched interest to discredit all stem cell therapies. In order to halt these vicious attacks, we believe that a set of international standards are needed to ensure patient safety and to help this field develop in the direction of responsible medical practice. As a global nonprofit dedicated to patient safety and physician education on the medical use of adult stem cells, we believe that the ICMS is the only viable organization to produce and enforce these standards.

In our efforts to continue to advance safe stem cell therapies, we have published clinical and lab guidelines on the collection, processing, and re-implantation of stem cells, and maintain patient treatment registries. We are calling on all stem cell clinics worldwide to join the ICMS and actively participate in our treatment registries and come into compliance with our guidelines. By joining the ICMS, and allowing the ICMS to track the outcomes and complications of your procedures, clinics will make a clear statement that they are dedicated to patient safety and to the transparency of their clinical practices.

It is only through vehicles such as the treatment registries that clinics can show that while stem cell therapies are still investigational in nature, when done with the safety of the patients in mind, they can be both safe and effective treatments.

As a society of physicians, researchers and patients, we will embrace those clinics that put safety first and expose those whose practices are dangerous and unethical. We believe that it is critical that patients know which clinics are working to ensure patient safety. To help patients, the ICMS will be posting a list of all clinics that have been invited to join our registries that do not participate or fail to respond.

Sincerely,

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