



Letting research take flight: Why you shouldn't compare adult and embryonic stem cell research...

In 1910, seven years after the Wright brothers flew at Kitty Hawk, there were no commercial flights and rail and boat, which had existed for over a century, were still the most efficient forms of long distance transportation.

Should the U.S. have abandoned or restricted attempts towards developing passenger airlines?

In 2005, seven years after the first isolation of human embryonic stem cell research, there are those who would argue we should abandon this promising area of research in favor of adult stem cell research, which has been underway for forty years, because it is further down the line towards therapy development.

Just because adult stem cell science is older, doesn't mean it's better.

The truth is, both areas of research are worth pursuing, they both have scientific and medical potential we do not yet fully understand. Embryonic stem cells can teach us a great deal about how to reprogram adult stem cells. However, they are still different cells, and are not substitutable. The first liver transplant in 1963 taught us a great deal about how to perform the first heart transplant in 1967. But that doesn't mean you can give someone a liver instead of a heart and hope that they recover.

Restricting embryonic stem cell research causes harm to *all* stem cell research and delays the scientific breakthroughs that could lead to treatment for disease.

Let embryonic stem cell research take flight.

