

## Statement on the National Bioethics Advisory Commission Report on Human Stem Cell Research *September 13, 1999*

Today my National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) delivered its report on the ethical use of human stem cells in research. Because of the enormous medical potential of such research, I asked the NBAC in November 1998 to look at the ethical and medical issues surrounding human stem cell research. The scientific results that have emerged in just the past few months already strengthen the basis for my hope that one day stem cells will be used to replace cardiac muscle cells for people with heart disease, nerve cells for hundreds of thousands of Parkinson's patients, or insulin-producing cells for children who suffer from diabetes.

The issues addressed by the NBAC's recommendations are complex and difficult. The commissioners are to be commended for the thoroughness with which they engaged in this discussion and the national dialog that they facilitated, seeking the views and opinions of virtually every segment of our society including scientists, patients, scholars from most of the major religions in the United States, lawyers, philosophers, ethicists, and the public.

I want to thank Dr. Harold Shapiro, Chairman of the NBAC, and other commissioners for a thoughtful report that will contribute significantly to the efforts of my administration as we establish the highest ethical standards for the conduct of human stem cell research.

## The Auckland Challenge: APEC Economic Leaders' Declaration *September 13, 1999*

We, the Economic Leaders of APEC, celebrate here in Auckland ten years of unprecedented cooperation in our region, in pursuit of a vision of stability, security and prosperity for our peoples. We shall continue to exercise leadership to reach our goals and to meet the challenge we have set ourselves.

We welcome the improved performance and prospects of our economies since we last met, and commend the actions taken to reform those economies affected by the crisis. The cooperative growth strategy we adopted in Kuala Lumpur, and sound macroeconomic policies in key economies, have supported the restoration of confidence and growth, and have allowed us to share growing confidence about our prospects.

We are not complacent about the risks that might impede recovery and sustainable growth and we will sustain the momentum for reform. Continued multilateral and bilateral support is still important. We welcome and endorse the efforts of Ministers through the year in pursuit of APEC's goals. As Leaders, we accept responsibility for resisting protectionism, opening mar-

kets further, and addressing structural and regulatory weaknesses that contributed to the economic downturn from 1997. We will achieve this by strengthening our markets through regulatory reform and enhanced competition and by improving the international framework governing trade and investment flows. To this end we commit to the launch of a new Round of negotiations in the World Trade Organisation.

All people in our communities have a stake in the success of APEC. We want to ensure they achieve their full potential for improved economic and social well being. We particularly welcome the more active participation of women and business in APEC's work this year.

### *Supporting Growth through Strong and Open Markets*

Improved competitiveness through ongoing reform is the road to recovery and sustainable growth. Through APEC, we seek to expand opportunities for business and employment growth, build strong and open markets and ensure that our communities and economies can participate successfully in the international economy. Open,