

# Egg Donation

## STEM CELL RESEARCH

Embryonic Stem Cell research (non-hybrid) requires the donation of human eggs. Egg harvesting requires powerful drugs to hyper-stimulate a woman's endocrine system to produce large number of mature eggs, which can cause a serious condition called ovarian hyper-stimulation syndrome (OHSS). In August 2013, Governor Brown vetoed SB 926, a bill which would have authorized financial compensation of women for the harvest of their eggs to create nascent human beings for medical research and human cloning. In his letter the governor stated: "the questions raised here are not simple; they touch matters that are both personal and philosophical. In medical procedures of this kind, genuinely informed consent is difficult because the long-term risks are not adequately known."



Conversely, the most vulnerable and poor groups of women in our society, enticed by income opportunities for basic living expenses for their children, would be taken the greatest risk.

Jennifer Lahl, President for the Center of Bioethics and Culture, calls this type of egg harvesting a form of human trafficking. It allows the exploitation and power of one over the other, in this case treating the woman as an egg factory. She refers to it as a biological colonization, exploiting the weakest by the strong, similar in principle to sweat shop workers and child pornography.

As Catholics, we can understand the inherent relationship between protecting life and dignity of the human person and the parallel path we must always take in following the Gospel.