Bioethics Position Statement:
Stem Cell Research

Stem cells and their derivatives possess unique properties that make them powerful tools in drug discovery and development. Lilly believes in the scientific potential of stem cell research, but also acknowledges that there are conflicting views about the ethics of using human stem cells derived from certain sources.

Sources of Stem Cells
In order to support scientific innovation, respect human life, and respect stakeholder views, Lilly uses stem cells that are derived from animals, and from human sources where appropriate informed consent and/or assent can be obtained and there is little risk of harm to the sample donor. These human sources include, but are not limited to bone marrow, fat, and umbilical cord blood, as well as tumors. Lilly also is pursuing research with induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS), whereby pluripotent stem cells can be derived from mature cells – like skin cells – obtained from human donors. Lilly believes its research and development goals that require the use of stem cell technology can be achieved with these sources.

Before procuring tissue, cells, or cell lines for use in Lilly-sponsored work – either internally or externally – it must be verified that they were obtained in compliance with applicable laws and under circumstances that protect the rights and interests of the donor.

Research Use of Stem Cells
Lilly will not engage in research that introduces human stem cells into animal embryos.