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Title of Paper: “Stem Cell Research In Europe: One body many faces.”

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Abstract:

Stem cell research is currently one of the most exciting, promising and controversial fields in the area of biotechnology. These tiny instances of life have become the protagonists in many scenarios of utopia as well as great catastrophe. They embody man’s eternal quest for health, enhancement even eternal life; at the same time they are connected with great fears of the degradation and exploitation of human life.

Recently the European Union gave the “green light” to embryonic stem cell research. Some European Countries rejoiced and welcomed the new policy whereas others strongly expressed their objection and opposition to it.

This paper will present the policies different European countries have adopted on stem cell research. I will look at the reasons and justifications these countries give to support their decision either to promote or to ban this type of research. Finally, I will identify and examine some of the political, economical and ethical issues that are arising due to the discrepancies and ambiguities that characterise the practice of stem cell research in Europe.