

LECTURE 9 HANDOUT

Speaker: Brian Green

STEM CELL ETHICS

1. What is "life" or what does it mean for something to be "alive"? What makes something alive? What is human life?
2. What makes something worthy of moral protection? Are some kinds of human life more morally valuable than other kinds? Why?
3. What moral goods and values are at stake in stem cell research? Think of a variety of cases with different conflicting values at stake.
4. When goods conflict, how do we decide which goods take priority?
5. What way of thinking about ethics might be most helpful here - rules, consequences, virtues and vices, cases-based analogy, or some other way?
6. What does the best future look like for these technologies? What is the worst?
7. What kinds of institutions do we need in order to promote the best future with these technologies? Can we modify currently existing institutions, or do we need entirely new ones?