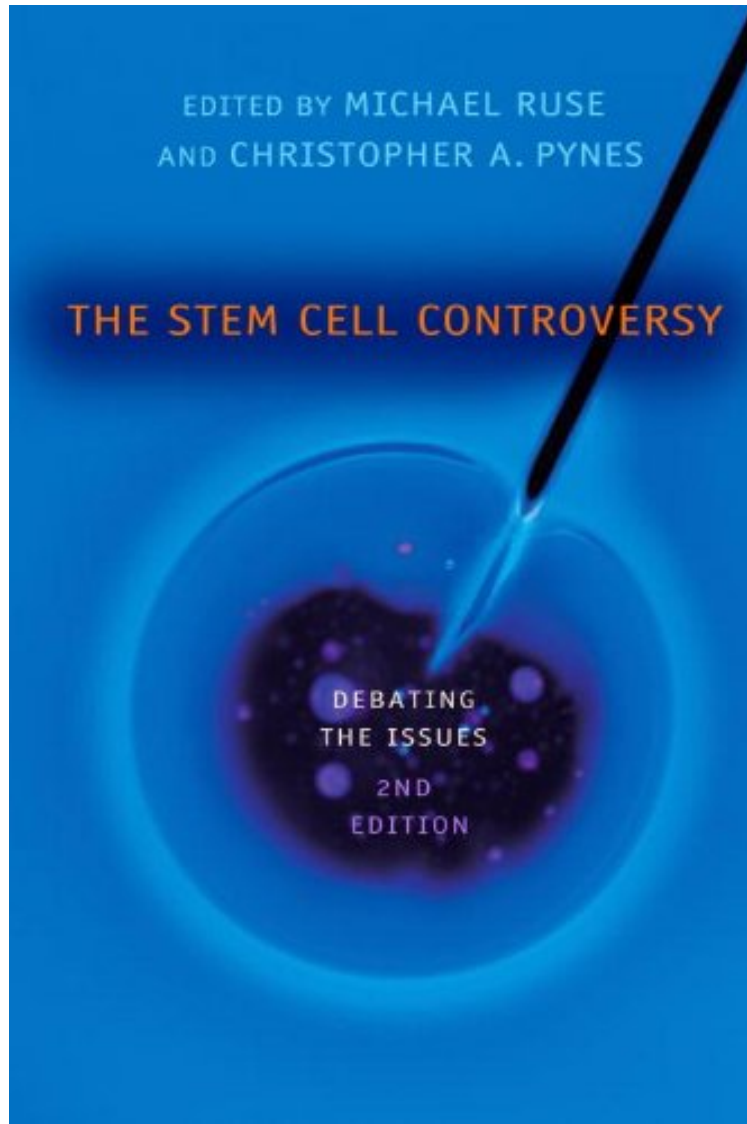


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## The Stem Cell Controversy: Debating the Issues (Contemporary Issues (Prometheus))

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**From Brand: Prometheus Books : The Stem Cell Controversy: Debating the Issues (Contemporary Issues (Prometheus))** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Stem Cell Controversy: Debating the Issues (Contemporary Issues (Prometheus)):

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Stem Cell Controversy Book ReviewBy Needa ViraniRecent studies have provided evidence of stem cells as possible candidates for therapeutic treatments of debilitating

diseases. Even though stem cells have the capability as pluripotent cells to differentiate into any cell in the body, there is a strong and ongoing debate about the moral and religious ethics of using stem cells mainly due to their origins. Most stem cells are harvested from aborted fetuses or new cell formations. Sharp criticism is raised from opponents of abortion who believe that even a fertilized egg is still entitled to all human rights as a full grown adult. On the other hand, proponents of the research claim to be making legitimate use of the already destroyed fetuses in order to help those suffering from detrimental diseases. Editors Michael Ruse and Christopher Pynes have compiled a set of articles from a variety of distinguished scientists and philosophers debating both sides of the controversy in order to provide a novel reader the ability to make an informed decision about their stance on future research. The book provides an excellent initial start for a curious mind, however, it lacks the content for an informed stem cell advocate to further their knowledge and establish their claims which is why I gave it a 3/5 stars. As an advocate of stem cells, this book did not provide me with the sustenance that I searched for, however it did help clear the blurry lines for some basic stem cell controversies that still lingered within my mind. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent source of information. By D. Barker This book covers the subject from various angles. It is divided into major topics, with articles from various professionals speaking about the topic. A perfect book for those who want to learn the subject or write a research paper. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Well balanced book that would be useful in the classroom. By Dear Reader The editors give the stem cell debate thorough and thoughtful treatment of the complex issues surrounding the current debate. This would be an excellent book for someone wishing to become familiar with all aspects--social, political, religious, moral, scientific, medical--of stem cell issues. I would highly recommend this book for any college course that plans on tackling such thorny issues as ethics--both medical and scientific. In addition, as both editors are philosophers the book would be well-suited to any introductory ethics class.

Stem cell research is headline news. Researchers are eager to move forward, state governments and private foundations are rushing to support it, and the sick and afflicted are desperate for its benefits. Yet powerful forces in our society led by President George W. Bush find it morally troubling and they are doing all in their powers to restrict its development beyond a very limited scale. Stem cells, which have the remarkable potential to develop into different parts of the body, are actually harvested from aborted fetal tissue or newly fertilized cells. Proponents of stem cell research argue that scientists are making legitimate use of already aborted fetuses and it is unfair to deprive those who are suffering the benefits of a potentially revolutionary therapy. Yet this practice has raised sharp criticisms from the Religious Right, who charge that science is capitalizing on an abhorrent procedure. Given the medical potential for treatment of incurable diseases by stem cell research, as well as the moral dilemmas this technology poses, should such research be permitted? What moral, religious, or political objections might be raised? Philosophers Michael Ruse and Christopher A. Pynes have compiled this valuable, up-to-date, and newly revised collection of articles by noted experts to address all aspects of the stem cell controversy. The contributors scientists, medical practitioners, philosophers, theologians, historians, and policy analysts offer a variety of perspectives to give readers the critical tools they need to shape an informed position on the topic. Readers will come away with a deeper understanding of the science of stem cell research, its medical cures and promises, and the moral, religious, and policy concerns surrounding this controversial social issue.

About the Author Michael Ruse (Tallahassee, FL) is the Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy at Florida State University and the author or editor of *The Stem Cell Controversy*; *Cloning: Responsible Science or Technomadness?*; *Taking Darwin Seriously*; *Philosophy of Biology*; and *But Is It Science?*, among many other works. Christopher A. Pynes is an assistant professor of philosophy at Western Illinois University and the coeditor with Michael Ruse of the first edition of *The Stem Cell Controversy*.