**The Dicky-Wicker Amendment**

* In 2009 a lawsuit was brought to the Supreme Court – the case is Sherley v. Sebelius. This plaintiff James Sherley (a professor at MIT whose research focuses on adult stem cells) contended that the NIH guidelines violated the Dicky-Wicker Amendment.  The main arguments are outlined in the attached article. Briefly Sherley felt that by funding hESC research the government was in essence funding the creation of hESCs during which the embryo is destroyed. This week I’d like you to weigh in on how you interpret the Dicky-Wicker Amendment. This is perhaps the most critical piece of legislation with regards to stem cell research in the US, and something that all tissue engineers should be familiar with.
* Begin by reading the assigned JAMA article by Glenn Cohen. Please comment on whether you think the NIH guidelines, which allow for federal funding of hECS research (we outlined these guidelines in lecture) violate the Dicky-Wicker Amendment. As always, please be respectful of the opinions and thoughts of your peers as we discuss this sensitive subject. We are not discussing whether or not human embryos should be used for the creation of hESCs.
* Respond to at least two of your classmates.