

Britain to allow hybrid stem cells

by UPI

LONDON -- The British government is withdrawing its objections to creating hybrid embryos from humans and animals for use in stem-cell research.

The government had proposed a ban on the procedure last year.

The stem cells are created by injecting human DNA into empty animal eggs, making the embryos 99.9 percent human, The Times of London said Thursday.

King's College London and the University of Newcastle want to use the technique to study diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and diabetes. The teams applied for permission to produce embryos made from rabbit or cow's eggs and genetic material from human donors.

The decision to grant individual licenses for stem cell research will rest with the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, the newspaper said.

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