

Review WWWs with Cyberdoc

Cyberdoc reviews cloning online – the words in bold correspond to links on Cyberdoc's website at xtn.org/cyberdoccloning/

There is very little material on cloning on the **CMF website**: a 1998 submission on 'Cloning issues in reproduction, science and medicine' to the Human Genetics Advisory Forum (HGAC) and Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), a brief article from the Student Journal *Nucleus* and some more general articles on human genetics. But there is much to find elsewhere.

One of the first and best sites I discovered on the subject was one created by an individual- it is always heart-warming to realise that enthusiasts still exist. **Gareth's Cloning Web Site** is light on ethical issues, and perhaps a little dated, but a great starting point. The legal position in various countries is explained, and there are helpful articles and links.

The **Roslin Institute** is where cloning was first successfully performed, but their web site is rather poor. There is minimal discussion of ethical issues, and a rather tacky design. A book entitled 'The 2nd Creation' is strongly promoted, which is enough to stir concerns that scientists think they are playing God with this technology.

Christian sites on this subject appear to be few and far between, with the excellent **Church of Scotland Society, Religion and Technology Project site** a notable exception. Interestingly one of the Roslin scientists had significant input into this work.

Guardian Unlimited has a special section of their site devoted to genetics in general and laced with an healthy air of scepticism. Surprisingly, despite appearing to be generally up to date, there was no mention of the latest suggestion that homosexual fathers could conceive using cloning technology. **BBC News** made up for this lack, and linked from this story to some very useful background information, including audio clips and ethical discussion. The main **BBC** site returned an amazing 186 documents about cloning including several full transcripts of programs like Horizon.

The Government sponsored **Human Genetics Commission** site contains little more of substance than a link (under their 'what's new' section) to the full text of the recent Donaldson report on stem cell research (read 'cloning' in most scientists minds).

Easily the best website on the ethical aspects of human cloning is one which calls itself **religioustolerance.org**. The page on cloning includes arguments and quotations for and against cloning, and an explanation of stem cell research. There is a vast catalogue of references, mostly linked online. If you have time only to look at only one site on the subject this is the one!

This article and links to previous Cyberdoc website reviews can be found at xtn.org/cyberdoc/

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