

Trump's Ban On the Use of Fetal Tissue Delays Coronavirus Vaccine Research

A recent report by Washington Post's Amy Goldstein, states that immunologist Kim Hasenkrug wants to test potential treatments for Covid-19 in mice using "humanized lungs." Officials at the Department of Health and Human Services are not allowing the research because using donated fetal tissue from abortions was banned last year by the Trump administration.

Government scientists will be barred from conducting research using donated fetal tissue the Trump administration announced on Wednesday, dealing a major blow to scientists who say it is an irreplaceable part of ongoing scientific research.

*Trump Administration Bans Government Scientists From Using Fetal Tissue –
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Fetal tissue from abortions is used to create mice with human tissue suitable for medical testing. The research Kim Hasenkrug proposed reportedly aims to use mice with implanted fetal lung tissue, then infecting the mice with coronavirus strains similar to CoVID-19, and then testing for successful treatments for CoVID-19.

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Humanized mice have been key to developing several important medical treatments for diseases like the Zika virus or HIV/AIDS, which was Hasenkrug's previous research focus. The calculation is simple. You can't test certain treatments without humanized mice, and you can't get humanized mice without fetal tissue.

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Coronavirus treatment research is being held up by Trump's ban on the use of fetal tissue

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The *Washington Post* reported that Kim Hasenkrug at the NIH Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Montana has been appealing for “nearly a month” to get approval for the experiments using fetal tissue.

Regarding the proposal, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services told CNA “no decision has been made.”

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