

China introduces regulations on stem cell research

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.

Chinese stem-cell scientists have welcomed long-awaited measures that, state media claim, will rein in rogue use of stem cells in clinics while allowing research.

The measures — announced on August 21 by China's National Health and Family Planning Commission through [state media](#) — offer a straightforward path towards clinical studies, researchers told *Nature*. But some also warn that the measures do not have the teeth needed to stop clinics offering unproven and unapproved treatments.

For years, clinics around China have been ignoring government regulations and warnings from the scientific community, offering desperate patients costly and, according to experts, [probably ineffective treatments](#). These were often labelled as clinical trials as [a cover to charge patients](#). Other countries have experienced [similar problems](#).

Qi Zhou, a stem-cell and cloning scientist at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) Institute of Zoology in Beijing, has been waiting for the guidelines so he can move his research from animal models to humans. In unpublished work, his team has already implanted dopamine-producing neurons derived from stem cells into monkeys that have been chemically induced to show symptoms similar to those of Parkinson's disease. The monkeys have shown some improvement, and he now hopes to try the treatment on humans. "I think it's time, time to start doing some clinical research," he says.

Read full, original post: [China announces stem-cell rules](#)