

## Viewpoint: US government's clinical trial registry plagued by 'bogus' patient-funded stem-cell trials

When a judge [ruled](#) [June 3] that the FDA could stop the work of U.S. Stem Cell, the firm's trials remained on [clinicaltrials.gov](#); the [postings](#) were no longer actively enlisting patients, but they didn't mention that the company's injections had blinded at least four people, either.

Nor did a listing of a completed study sponsored by Cell Surgical Network include any indication that the FDA is [seeking an injunction](#) against that company, too.

...

"You can concoct this bogus appearance of science, call it a clinical study, recruit people to pay to participate in your study, and not only that: You can actually register on [clinicaltrials.gov](#) and have the federal government help you promote what you're doing," said University of Minnesota bioethicist Leigh Turner.

...

That's why Dennis Clegg, who studies stem cell-based eye therapies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, has stopped referring people to [clinicaltrials.gov](#). "I used to tell people all the time, 'Go to [clinicaltrials.gov](#), and you can see what's going on,'" he said. "But if they're listing the so-called patient-funded research, where patients have to pay \$5,000 or \$10,000 ... now the best advice I can give is, 'Talk to your ophthalmologist.'"

**Read full, original post:** [Stem cell clinics co-opt clinical-trials registry to market unproven therapies, critics say](#)