

# BNAC

BRITISH-NORTH AMERICAN COMMITTEE

## News release

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### **Distinguished transatlantic business alliance publishes guide to embryonic stem cell research**

The British-North American Committee, a group of distinguished business, academic and labor leaders from Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, today published a guide to the issues surrounding embryonic stem cell (ESC) research.

The guide ([www.acus.org/BNAC/publications.htm](http://www.acus.org/BNAC/publications.htm)) will assist public policy professionals and legislators in understanding the scientific, ethical, legislative, and economic issues surrounding the ESC debate.

Key points from the report include:

- Global ESC research will continue to the ultimate benefit of human health. The global scientific goal should be to maximize the potential therapeutic benefits of ESC research for all humanity;
- The United States, as opposed to the United Kingdom and Canada, has not been able to agree on a national policy for ESC research;
- To successfully contribute to the public debate around embryonic stem cell research, the economic and scientific risk-reward equation must be taken into account and balanced with the complex ethical issues involved.

Dr David Levy, Chairman of the BNAC working group authoring the guide, said:

“We have written this guide to establish a consistent and simple framework for a reasoned debate on the issue. We hope that legislators, government agencies and the business community will find this guide both informative and educational. From the conventional financial perspective, the creation of new medical knowledge brings the possibility of substantial economic returns. The United States must guard against being forced into the role of buyer, not creator, of embryonic stem cell research.”

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## Background information:

Launched in 1969, the British-North American Committee is a group of leaders from business, labor, and academia in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States committed to harmonious, constructive relations among the three countries and their citizens. It is co-chaired by Alan R. Griffith, Vice-Chairman of the Bank of New York and Sir Paul Judge, Chairman of the Royal Society of Arts (London). Ronald Osborne, based in Toronto, Canada, is Chairman of the Executive Committee. It meets regularly to discuss common concerns with invited experts and senior policymakers. Members include leading business executives from global financial institutions, industrial manufacturers and IT companies, as well as senior academics and labor leaders.

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