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Synthetic Human Embryos, Embryo Models and Embryo-like Structures in Islam

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By Muhsin, SM (Muhsin, Sayyed Mohamed); Jalil, MNA (Jalil, Mohd. Noh

Abdul); Al-Akiti, MA (Al-Akiti, Muhammad Ayman); Duriat, F (Duriat, Fazrihan); Ahmad, MF (Ahmad, Mohd Faizal); Chin, AHB (Chin, Alexis

Heng Boon)

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Abstract A major breakthrough in developmental biology is the ex vivo

generation of synthetic human embryos from stem cells. A

comprehensive, in-depth bioethical analysis from a Sunni Islamic perspective reveals that the reproductive applications of synthetic human embryos contravene Islamic precepts of preserving lineage integrity (Hifz al-Nasl) due to disruption and confusion of kins and familial relationships, similar to human cloning with somal

cell nuclear transfer. However, their non-reproductive applications

in generating replacement tissues/organs, serving as in vitro experimental models of human development and disease, and testing platforms for evaluating pharmaceuticals and biomedical devices appear to align with Islamic principles.

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Addresses

- 1 Int Islamic Univ Malaysia IIUM, Islamic Jurisprudence, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ² Int Islamic Univ, Dept Usul Al Din & Comparat Relig, AbdulHamid AbuSulayman Kulliyyah Islamic Revealed, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ³ Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Dept Usul Al Din & Comparat Relig AHAS KIRKHS, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ⁴ Financial Syariah Advisory Council FSAC, PERGAS Singapore Islamic Scholars & Religious Teac, Singapore, Singapore
- ⁵ Pole Univ Euclide, Bangui, Cent Afr Republ

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