

Human Cloning

The scientific director of a private company said Wednesday that researchers had begun cloning a human using the DNA of a dead infant. An embryo is expected to be implanted into a surrogate mother within two weeks, said Brigitte Boisselier of CLONAIID, a Quebec-based company founded specifically to clone humans. "We have already begun working with human cells and we should be ready by mid-April," Boisselier told USA TODAY. Boisselier testified before Congress at a hearing on human cloning. The House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations called the hearing after several private groups, including Boisselier's, made claims that they intended to begin human cloning experiments. Boisselier did not tell the committee that the cloning was under way, and it is unclear whether her company's cloning team, which she says consists of three researchers and a physician, actually has the ability to clone a human. "This revelation only adds a sense of urgency to our mission. Congress must act now to prevent human cloning," said Ken Johnson, spokesman for the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees the subcommittee. "Some of these groups are serious enough and scary enough to warrant our immediate attention. "The committee will push a bill to ban human cloning within weeks. Boisselier is a member of the Raelian Movement, which announced last September that it intended to use cloning techniques to "resurrect" the child of a couple for \$500,000.

Vocabulary

embryo - an unborn animal or human in the very early stages of development
implanted - put into the body by means of a medical operation
surrogate - a person or thing that takes the place of somebody/something
warrant - to make something necessary or appropriate in a particular situation

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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