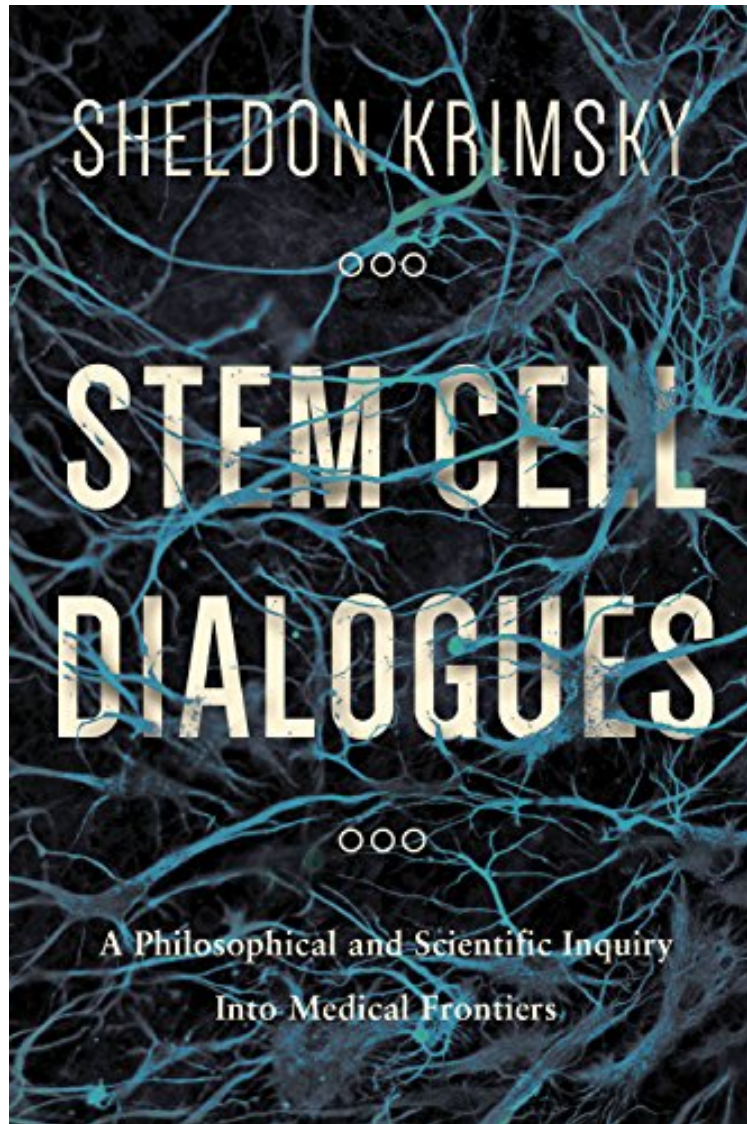


(Download) Stem Cell Dialogues: A Philosophical and Scientific Inquiry Into Medical Frontiers

# Stem Cell Dialogues: A Philosophical and Scientific Inquiry Into Medical Frontiers

*Sheldon Krinsky*

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**Sheldon Krinsky : Stem Cell Dialogues: A Philosophical and Scientific Inquiry Into Medical Frontiers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stem Cell Dialogues: A Philosophical and Scientific Inquiry Into Medical Frontiers:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A innovative yet comprehensive and accessible look at the state of the art of stem cellsBy Steve GI received this book for free via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. This book explores the philosophy, biology, business, law and ethics of stem cells. And potentially this could have been very

boring to read. However author Sheldon Krinsky took a unique approach and presented the information as a series of fictional dialogues covering all the issues. Central to this is the protagonist who is a stem cell scientist and ethicist. Some of the other characters are in favor of the study of embryonic stem cells and some are against. However, Krinsky presents all sides of the arguments objectively and respectfully. Krinsky also did not get bogged down in jargon; everything is explained well and in a conversational manner. This made the book interesting and fun to read. I recommend this book for anyone interested in stem cells from whatever point of view they approach the subject.

"Stem cells" have become linked with both new frontiers in medical science and political and ethical controversy. The field, along with the emerging area of regenerative medicine, is creating the conditions for a time when damaged tissue and organs might be repaired through personalized cell therapy as easily as the body repairs itself, therefore revolutionizing the treatment of numerous diseases. Yet to obtain human embryonic stem cells, scientists must destroy human embryos -- a prospect that has provoked intense reactions among the American public. Addressing the moral and ethical issues of stem cell research while also educating readers about the biological function and medical applications of these cells, this book features fictional characters engaging in compelling inquiry and debate. Participants investigate the scientific, political, and socio-ethical dimensions of stem cell science using actual language, analysis, and arguments taken from scientific, philosophical, and popular literature. Each dialogue centers on a specific, recognizable topic, such as the policies implemented by the George W. Bush administration restricting the use of embryonic stem cells; the potential role of stem cells in personalized medicine; the ethics of cloning; and the sale of eggs and embryos. Additionally, speakers debate the use of stem cells to treat paralysis, diabetes, stroke effects, macular degeneration, and cancer. Educational, entertaining, and rigorously researched (with 300 references to scientific literature), *Stem Cell Dialogues* should be included in any effort to help the public understand the science, ethics, and policy concerns of this promising field.

Krinsky's use of the dialogue method identifies, sharpens, and advances key points of debate and the breadth of issues being addressed. (Ronald M. Green, Dartmouth College) Krinsky is not afraid to introduce the latest, often hyped-up findings and unresolved controversies in stem cell research and to offer a well-balanced discussion of their implications for potential therapies. (Hynek Wichterle, Columbia University) This book presents a wonderful new approach to learning about stem cells and thinking about their broader impact at the interface of society, policy, religion, and ethics. *Stem Cell Dialogues* is highly novel, very engaging, and will open readers to new ways of thinking about the public stem cell debate. It touches on many controversial areas related to stem cells in a well-informed and engaging style. Sheldon Krinsky is able to break down the pros and cons of each argument in a way that makes the stem cell conversation approachable and empowers the reader to draw their own conclusions. (Jonathan Garlick, Tufts University) Krinsky's coverage of topics is impressive, much more extensive than other available teaching tools. His approach is remarkably balanced, accessible, and interesting. The dialogues are open-ended, leaving the instructor the freedom to develop different ideas in different directions in the classroom. (Julia Pedroni, Williams College) Well-researched and enlightening... Readers will come away with an understanding of the pertinent scientific, political, and moral dilemmas. (Library Journal) An important book for anyone interested in the issues surrounding stem cell research. (Choice) The inquisitive form certainly fits the subject, which is multifaceted and evolving. (Health Affairs) Evenhanded, eminently readable, up to date, educational, scientifically precise, powerfully researched, and very entertaining, Krinsky's slim volume is one that no scientist, policy-maker, ethicist, or intelligent reader should miss.... Although the stem-cell debate is complex and heated, Krinsky has done more than anyone else to make it tractable, clear, and interesting. (Hastings Center Report) As a lecturer in bioethics I regard this book as an immensely useful resource for my MA students.... I welcome the contribution *Stem Cell Dialogues* makes in helping public understanding of the science, ethics and policy concerns of what continues to be a developing and important aspect of regenerative medicine. (New Bioethics) About the Author Sheldon Krinsky is the Lenore Stern Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at the School of Arts and Sciences and adjunct professor in the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at the School of Medicine, Tufts University. His research focuses on the links among science and technology, ethics and values, and public policy, and he is the author or editor of fourteen books, including *Genetic Justice: DNA Data Banks, Criminal Investigations, and Civil Liberties*, and 200 book chapters, journal articles, and reviews.