
PART 5

Forbidden Science:
Should Some Research
be Outlawed?

Controversies in science continue to shape the public's opinion of scientific research. Most recently, concern has arisen over the suitability of publishing research that could potentially be used by bioterrorists. Part 5 looks at "forbidden science"—issues such as human reproductive cloning and genetically-engineered bioweapons—and asks rhetorically: should some avenues of research be outlawed?

In Chapter 16 Ronald M. Green, professor of ethics at Dartmouth College, presents a discussion of human reproductive cloning, carefully delineating arguments for and against a ban on the procedure, and the hidden agendas behind them. He concludes with a discussion of the various cloning bills introduced in the U.S. Senate, and his personal views on the subject.

In Chapter 17 David Kay, of the Center for Counterterrorism Technology at SAIC, examines the issue of genetically engineered bioweapons. Kay starts with a history of nuclear weapons research and the control mechanisms used to conduct that research. He contrasts nuclear research to genetic research and the possible development of biological weapons. He stresses the importance of the international community taking steps to control the consequences of genetic engineering, and reminds researchers of their responsibility to recognize the consequences of their work.

Daniel Kevles, professor of history at Yale University, presents more views on cloning in Chapter 18. Kevles begins by stating that human cloning will almost surely happen, comparing it to reproductive technologies of the past that were denounced at first. He then delves into a history of reproductive technology, and concludes by examining the potential results of bringing a human clone into the world.

