**KfL Statement on Human Stem Cell Research.**

Many patients suffering from serious and life threatening diseases, including children and adults with kidney failure, could potentially benefit from carefully regulated research using human stem cells. Research on human embryos was enabled in the UK in January 2001 by extension of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990.

The field of human stem cell research has made significant advances in the last decade, in particular, in understanding the nature and role of adult stem cells. Learning how to identify and harvest pluri-potential adult stem cells is now common practice in research labs across the world. Likewise, the ability to re-programme adult differentiated cells (i.e. how to change adult skin cells to become kidney or liver or blood cells, so called "inducible progenitor cells") offers significant advantages for research that in the view of the Trustees of KfL, negates the use of human embryonic stem cells. There are significant benefits (HLA compatibility, immunological tolerance) from modifying a patient’s own stem cells using tissue engineering and regenerative medicine approaches that the KfL Trustee’s will only consider research funding of adult stem cell research where ethical permission has been granted.