

First, Some Basic Stem Cell Terminology

Here is a brief explanation of some key terms that are used in many types of stem cell research:

Pluripotent: A stem cell that has the power to develop into any type of bodily cell or tissue ("pluri" = many; "potent" = having power)

Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs): A type of pluripotent stem cell that can be generated or "reprogrammed" directly from adult cells. **Induced pluripotent stem cells require viruses to reprogram the cells, which has the potential to cause cancerous tumors.**

Embryonic stem cells (ESCs): Can form any cell type in the body. However, they are in limited supply, and – due to their origins – have ethical issues attached to their use.

Human pluripotent stem cells (hPSCs): The term includes both human induced pluripotent stem cells (hiPSCs) and human embryonic stem cells (hESCs)

Autologous: Involving one individual as both donor and recipient

Retinal ganglion cells (RGCs): Neurons, or nervous system cells. They are located near the inner surface of the retina and give rise to optic nerve fibers that transmit information from the retina to several regions in the brain.