

Regenerative Medicine

The American Medical Association does not have a single, comprehensive definition of regenerative medicine. However, it can best be described as “a multidisciplinary field of health sciences that aims to repair, replace or regenerate dysfunctional or damaged human cells, tissues or organs to or establish normal function...” The question of using embryonic stem cells has been an issue of regenerative medicine since its inception.

The General Grand Chapter supports the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (WFIRM). Rather than using embryonic stem cells, WFIRM uses the following methods to collect stem cells.

Tissue Biopsy/Aspiration: Researchers take small samples of tissue – such as from the bladder, fat or muscle – to isolate specialized stem cells needed for growing specific tissues like muscle, cartilage or bladders.

Blood Sample Collection: Stem cells are gathered directly from a patient’s blood sample to be used to research for constructing engineered blood vessels.

To support the efforts of the General Grand Chapter, I will have some hand-knitted dishcloths available. For a donation of only \$10 donors can pick the style of their choice. I have some dog patterns and stars. An example is pictured below.



