

## Experts Discuss Stem Cell Research at Three-Day Event in D.C.

In a panel moderated by Johns Hopkins Medicine CEO Edward Miller, photo left, Ruth Faden, executive director of JHU's [Phoebe R. Berman Bioethics Institute](#), points out some of the ethical concerns surrounding scientific advancements in stem cell research to 150 alumni and friends at an event called "The Science, Ethics and Politics of Stem Cell Research," held Nov. 15 in Washington, D.C.



Edward Miller, John D. Gearhart, Aravinda Chakravarti and Ruth Faden

PHOTO BY DAVID W. POWELL

Joining them on the panel — which highlighted the advancements and obstacles to the promising field, in which Johns Hopkins is a long-acknowledged leader — are John D. Gearhart, the C. Michael Armstrong Professor of Medicine and director of the Stem Cell Biology Division of the [Institute for Cell Engineering](#) at Hopkins, and Aravinda Chakravarti, director of the [McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine](#) and Henry J. Knott Professor at Hopkins.

The panel, sponsored by the Johns Hopkins Institutions, capped three days devoted to public and academic discussion about stem cell research.

On Nov. 13 and 14, the Berman Bioethics Institute hosted a two-day symposium among nationally renowned scientists and ethicists on "Interstate Collaboration in Stem Cell Research." On Nov. 15, a day-long "Stem Cell 101" event for more than 80 alumni, policy-makers and guests featured three panels with experts from the Stowers Institute in Missouri; the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine; and Georgetown, Columbia and Johns Hopkins universities exploring stem cell science and alternatives, ethical considerations and the political outlook as states consider their own funding and restrictions in the absence of a national policy. The luncheon keynote speaker was Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.), who spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about the events leading to passage in the House of Representatives of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2005 and its prospects for Senate consideration.

—Robin Payes

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