In the 24 August Nature Podcast Dr Robert Lanza makes the statement: "What we have done for the first time is to actually create human embryonic stem cells, without destroying the embryo itself." Subsequently he says: "We have shown that we can not only generate stem cells without destroying the embryo, but that that remaining embryo also has the potential to go on to create a healthy hatching blastocyst." Nature wishes to clarify that Dr Lanza has been able to generate human stem cells from single blastomeres using a procedure that is similar to that routinely used in fertility clinics for genetic testing of human embryos after in vitro fertilisation. However, in the paper published in *Nature* 442, doi:10.1038/nature05142, multiple cells were removed from each embryo in order to minimize the number of embryos used in this study, so none of the biopsied embryos remained intact nor were allowed to develop in culture. The authors have done separate, control experiments indicating that single-cell biopsy under these conditions does not seem to affect the viability of the remainder embryo.