

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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*Established 1981*

## September 2014

### **Scientific Review of 72 Epidemiological Studies Shows Abortion-Breast Cancer Link is Real**

by Karen Malec

A scientific review conducted by Angela Lanfranchi, MD and Patrick Fagan, Ph.D. found that support for an abortion-breast cancer (ABC) link exists in current knowledge of breast physiology (as it is presented in standard medical texts), as well as epidemiological and experimental research.

The review, published in *Issues in Law and Medicine*, is entitled, "Breast cancer and induced abortion: A comprehensive review of breast development and pathophysiology, the epidemiologic literature, and proposal for creation of databanks to elucidate all breast cancer risk factors." [1] Lanfranchi is Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Fagan is the Director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute.

Among 72 epidemiological studies they reviewed, the authors explained:

"...21 show some positive, statistically significant relationship. Seven studies show a positive, marginally significant link between induced abortion and breast cancer. Of three meta-analyses on the subject, two show a positive, statistically significant link between induced abortion and breast cancer. Two ecological epidemiological studies show a relationship between induced abortion and breast cancer. These studies have been conducted over fifty years across multiple cultures and countries...." [2]

The authors explained that surging pregnancy hormones (mostly estrogen) stimulate breast growth during the first months of pregnancy, leaving the breasts with an increase in cancer-susceptible Type 1 and Type 2 lobules (where most cancers are known to originate). If the mother carries her pregnancy to 32 weeks, her risk sharply declines because she has matured a sufficient number of lobules into

permanently cancer-resistant Type 4 lobules; and she has acquired 90% of the risk reduction associated with

a full term pregnancy. The authors said this evidence explains why other well-accepted reproductive risk factors raise risk including childlessness, premature birth before 32 weeks and second trimester miscarriages. [3]

The authors identified methods that are being used in gravely flawed studies that result in either an underestimate or the elimination of the risk: i.e., failure to follow women for a minimum of eight to 10 years after an abortion so that cancers are detectable; excluding breast cancer patients and women with histories of breast cancer; excluding consideration of women who died of the disease; confining their analyses to young women in their reproductive years; only comparing childless aborting women with childless never-pregnant women, instead of making the comparison with childbearing women (who are at reduced risk for breast cancer); and ignoring the effects of highly carcinogenic abortions (i.e., abortions occurring before first full term pregnancy, before age 18 or after age 30; abortions among women with a family history of breast cancer; and second trimester abortions).

The National Cancer Institute concluded after its 2003 workshop that abortion is not associated with breast cancer, but Lanfranchi and Fagan said the NCI's conclusion contradicts not only epidemiological evidence of a link, but also accepted reproductive risks for breast cancer listed in standard texts including premature birth before 32 weeks gestation, delayed first full term pregnancy and childlessness.[4]

The authors analyzed the evidence in light of the nine criteria that Sir Austin Bradford Hill recommended in 1965. These guidelines are used to help determine whether a cause-effect relationship exists between a potential risk factor and a disease. After demonstrating that all nine criteria have been met, Lanfranchi and Fagan concluded:

"We see that many studies of induced abortion demonstrate significant associations, across multiple

cultures and with some apparent specificity of cause (hormone exposure). The association manifests itself in the appropriate order, demonstrates a dose effect, is biologically plausible and coherent with existing science and has been demonstrated by analogy.”[5]

ABC link critics claim that recall bias is a flaw in research supporting a link, but they conveniently ignore studies that are free of any possibility of recall bias, including a prospective study on women in New York and two ecological studies.[6-8] Lanfranchi and Fagan called the recall bias hypothesis “unproven.”

In order to expand knowledge of the link, the authors recommended the establishment of a tissue bank and the development of a research data network located in existing mammography screening centers that would collect standardized data on forms concerning women’s reproductive, hormonal and breast histories that would include all potential risk factors.

The Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer is an international women’s organization founded to protect the health and save the lives of women by educating and providing information on abortion as a risk factor for breast cancer.

References:

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*Karen Malec is the president of the Coalition on Abortion/Breast Cancer.*

## Helping the Blind to See: Scientists Regrow Human Corneas from Adult Stem Cells

by Rebecca Taylor

We often do not think about our eyes until we injure them. As a lab rat, I am particularly keen on eye safety as I have seen firsthand what can happen in less than a blink of an eye. At the risk of sounding like a public service announcement, wear your safety goggles, people! Whether you are working with chemicals, power tools, or a simple hedge trimmer, it is often the times when you don’t think you need your goggles that they can protect you the most.

One of the parts of the eye that needs protecting is the cornea. The cornea is the clear part of the eye that protects the pupil and iris. Corneal damage is the most common cause of blindness. For those who have damaged corneas, this stem cell breakthrough is good news.

Researchers in Boston were able to identify and isolate difficult-to-find adult stem cells from deceased donors that were able to regrow human corneas. *BBCNews* reports (<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-28106253>):

Scientists have developed a new technique to regrow human corneas. Using key tracer molecules, researchers have been able to hunt down elusive cells in the eye capable of regeneration and repair. They transplanted these regenerative stem cells into mice – creating fully functioning corneas. Writing in the journal *Nature*, researchers say this method may one day help restore the sight of victims of burns and chemical injuries.

Limbal stem cells (LSC) are crucial for healthy eyesight – these cells work to maintain, repair and completely renew our corneas every few weeks. Without them the cornea – the transparent outermost layer of the eye – would become cloudy and our vision disrupted. A deficiency of these cells due to disease or damage through injury to the eye are among the most common reasons behind blindness worldwide. But the cells have so far been extremely difficult to identify, buried in a matrix of other structures in the limbal part of the eye – the junction between the cornea and the white of the eye (the sclera).

**Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?**

**Make sure they get the facts first!**

**A LIFE depends on it...**

**1-800-712-HELP (4357)**

**Website: <http://www.optionline.org/>**

Hopefully this technique will translate into human patients and be able to repair or reconstruct corneas for those who need them. And no embryos need to be created or destroyed.

<http://www.lifenews.com/2014/07/09/helping-the-blind-to-see-scientists-regrow-human-corneas-from-adult-stem-cells/> For more information see <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-28106253>

## Around the Office

by Cecelia M. Cody, Administrative Director

### Sharing the message of the “Precious Feet”

The early Christians used to draw an arc in the dirt, and if the other person were a Christian they would draw a corresponding arc to complete the “fish” symbol. We in the pro-life movement have a similar “symbol” that I wear every day – the “Precious Feet” pin.

A few weeks ago I was greeting people as they arrived for evening Mass, when the head usher approached me to ask a question. He had noticed my “Precious Feet” pin and asked what it was. I explained that they are the feet of a 10-12 week baby in the womb; I asked him if he would like set of feet pin also. I gave him a pin along with the fetal development information, and also showed him the “Precious Preborn.” (OK so I’m a pro-life “geek” who never leaves home without my “baby.”) Next thing I knew he was going all around the church showing people the “feet” and “Evangelizing for Life.” Within minutes I had distributed several sets of “Precious Feet” and promised to bring more the following week.

A few days later I was in the pharmacy and the cashier noticed my Precious Feet pin, and once again asked me what it was. Fortunately I had “restocked” from the recent church experience, so was able to give her a precious feet pin. The next time I was in the store I made sure to get in her line, and sure enough, she was wearing the precious feet pin! Imagine how many people will see her pin, and how many people she may be able to touch!

I guess the moral of the story is you never know when an opportunity will arise to share the message of life,

so always be prepared. Contact our office if you need some “Precious Feet” and/or a “Precious Preborn.”

**Mall Table Mania** – Our 4<sup>th</sup> of July mall table is getting wide press. We have received requests from as far away as Texas and the East Coast from people interested in knowing how we got our table, and how they could get one in their area. We hope to increase our presence at the local shopping mall to semi-monthly. This will require either an increased participation of our current volunteers and/or some new faces to join us at the mall. If you live in the Concord area and would like to join us, contact this office for more information. If you are interested in starting a table in your area, call us at 925-944-5351 and we will assist you in the procedure to get a table in your area.

However, this planned expansion will only be possible several times in the past, we operate on a shoestring budget, and that budget has been stretched to the max these past few months. The California water drought is not the only “drought” we are enduring. The summer months have been an exceedingly “dry” period for donations, in fact we are currently running a deficit of

several thousand dollars for 2014, and as I write this there is less than \$250 in the checking account. This is especially perilous to have happen just when we are in an expansion mode and with the start of the school year. We would like to be able to provide supplies to our students, for their pro-life club “Quad Tables” at high schools and colleges, and for class presentations. Restocking an existing school pro-life club costs about \$50,

whereas setting a new club costs between \$100-\$150 for supplies. A well-visited mall table can distribute upwards of \$50 of materials. And then there are the ongoing costs of newsletter printing and mailing (\$400/month), our phone bill, internet access, and general office expenses. There is nowhere else we can cut expenses, so any expansion, or even maintaining our current projects long term, will only be possible with an “expansion” in donations.

Please consider a donation to support our efforts. Even a few dollars will buy a dozen precious preborns or some precious feet pins. Bookmarks purchased in bulk cost us only seven cents apiece; most of our pamphlets run 10-15 cents each. Anything you can send us will help.

I was in the pharmacy and the cashier noticed my Precious Feet pin, and once again asked me what it was.

## ***Calendar of Events***

*For the latest updates of events see*

***[www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org)***

**NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR  
ABORTED CHILDREN** – Saturday September 13,  
2014. See: <http://www.abortionmemorials.com>

**40-DAYS FOR LIFE** – Sept. 24-Nov. 3, 2014  
See: <http://40daysforlife.com/> for a location near you.

**MARCH FOR LIFE** – Washington D.C.  
Thursday January 22, 2015

**WALK FOR LIFE – WEST COAST**  
San Francisco – Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup> 2015  
See: <http://www.walkforlifewc.com/>

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### **WHO IS CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE?**

This is the newsletter of **California Right to Life Education Fund**, a 501-c-3 organization established to educate the public about pro-life issues. Donations to the EDUCATION FUND are **tax-deductible** and can be sent to P.O. Box 4343, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0343.

California Right to Life **Committee, Inc.** is a 501-c-4 organization providing information on legislative issues affecting the right to life, and pro-life political advocacy. **CRLC, Inc. is not permitted**, under IRS regulations, to offer a tax deduction for donations. \$24.99 annually is requested for a subscription to the CRLC legislative email updates list and can be sent to 1920 Monument Blvd #309, Concord, CA 94520.

Both are affiliates of American Life League, headed by Judie Brown, and share the same “no-exceptions, no excuses” beliefs and the same dedication to promoting the Culture of Life, respecting all innocent human life from the single-cell stage to natural death.