

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Unborn child just a ‘Parasite’? Cutting edge science shows fetal cells heal mother for life

A standard pro-abortion argument hinges on the premise that a baby inside the mother’s womb attacks her bodily integrity. The developing baby is seen in this light as an intruder, a parasite, a threat to the woman’s autonomy. From this perspective the pregnant woman is viewed as being occupied. The only way she can continue to exercise her interest in bodily integrity, the argument goes, is to be liberated through the termination and expulsion of the invader.

But science paints a vastly different picture about the actual relationship between a baby in utero and his or her mother, showing that, far from being a parasite, the unborn child can help heal his mother for the rest of her life, as beneficial cells from the child pass into the mother’s body during pregnancy

Science writer Jena Pinctott explores this relationship in her October 2011 book [“Do Chocolate Lovers Have Sweeter Babies?: The Surprising Science of Pregnancy.”](#)

Science has been studying the phenomena of fetal cell microchimerism for more than 30 years, after researchers at Stanford University were shocked in 1979 to discover a pregnant mother’s blood containing cells with Y sex chromosomes. Since women only have X chromosomes, they concluded that the cells must have entered into her body from the male baby she carried within her.

Drawing on studies in biology, reproductive genetics, and epigenetics, Pinctott outlined in her book what science has learned since the Stanford discovery.

“During pregnancy,” she wrote, “cells sneak across the placenta in both directions. The fetus’ cells enter his mother, and the mother’s cells enter the fetus.”

Scientists have discovered, she said, that a baby’s fetal cells show up more often in a mother’s healthy breast tissue and less often in a woman who has breast cancer (43 versus 14 percent).

Pinctott pointed out that as the quantity of fetal cells in a mother’s body increase the activity of autoimmune conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis decreases. She called the evidence “tantalizing” that fetal cells may offer the mother increased resistance to certain diseases.

One kind of fetal cells that enter into the mother’s body is the baby’s stem cells. Stem cells have what Pinctott calls “magical properties” in that they can “morph” into other types of cells through a process called differentiation. The baby’s fetal stem cells can actually become the mother’s own cells that make up her liver, heart, or brain.

In what any ethicist might declare to be legitimate ‘embryonic stem cell therapy,’ the baby’s fetal stem cells migrate to the mother’s injured sites and offer themselves as a healing remedy, becoming part of the mother’s very body. Pinctott writes that such cells have been found in “diseased thyroid and liver tissue and have turned themselves into thyroid and liver cells respectively.”

Pinctott calls the evidence “striking” that a baby’s fetal cells “repair and rejuvenate moms.”

Genetics specialist Dr. Kirby Johnson of Tufts Medical Center, Boston, and professor Carol Artlett, a researcher at Philadelphia’s Thomas Jefferson University, back up Pinctott’s ideas. Their research shows that when a woman becomes pregnant she acquires an army of protective cells - what might be called a gift from her child - that remains with her for decades, perhaps till the end of her life.

**When a pregnant woman
has a seizure
or heart attack
The fetus will send stem
cells to the mother
to help restore the
damaged cells.**

Johnson and Artlett spoke to NPR's Robert Krulwich in a 2006 interview. In their research, Johnson found that a teaspoon of blood from a pregnant mother contained "dozens, perhaps even hundreds of cells... from the baby." Science has shown that at the end of a mother's pregnancy, up to 6 percent of the DNA in her blood plasma comes from her baby.

"One would expect them [the fetal cells in the mother's body] to be attacked fairly rapidly. You would expect them to be cleared within hours, if not days. What we found is that that is not the case, not anywhere near the case," Johnson said.

Artlett pointed out that even if a woman miscarries or deliberately aborts her child, the cells of the unborn child nonetheless remain with the mother, even for decades.

Both Johnson and Artlett defend the hypothesis that the baby's fetal cells have a beneficent purpose, not to hurt the mother, but to protect, defend, and repair her for the rest of her life, especially when she becomes seriously ill.

"There's a lot of evidence now starting to come out that these cells may actually be repairing tissue," said Artlett.

During the interview, Johnson told the story of one woman who was admitted into a Boston hospital with symptoms of hepatitis. She was an intravenous drug user with five pregnancies on record: one birth, two miscarriages, and two abortions. Johnson speculated that she would be carrying a lot of fetal cells.

In the process of examining her, the medical team performed a liver biopsy. A sample of her liver was sent to a lab to see if any fetal cells had congregated in the diseased area of her liver. What they found surprised them.

"We found hundreds... and hundreds of fetal cells," said Johnson, adding that they saw "literally sheets of cells, whole areas that seemed to be normal."

Scientists are still trying to determine what causes the baby's cells to work with the mother's body in such a synergetic fashion.

Pinctott wonders how many people have left their DNA in a mother's body. "Any baby we've ever conceived," she concludes.

Pinctott sees something "beautiful" in this. "Long post partum, we mothers continue to carry our children, at least in a sense. Our babies become part of us, just as we are a part of them. The barriers have broken down; the lines are no longer fixed."

Perhaps it is not at all poetic to say along with Pinctott that a baby lives a lifetime in a mother's heart and mind.

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/unborn-child-just-a-parasite-cutting-edge-science-shows-fetal-cells-heal-mo>

Making All Things New

by Stephanie Gray

There are some emotional pains that are so excruciating, so deep, and so overwhelming that words are inadequate to describe the agony. In such experiences, the deepest and most guttural of sobs seem to provide no relief.

That kind of suffering came to mind when I met a beautiful college student at my recent talk at an American university this past week. She approached me afterwards to thank me for giving her something she didn't have previously: a way to articulate the reasons behind the pro-life position in order to make "The Case for Life" (the title for my talk in which I equipped the audience to persuasively defend the right to life of pre-born children). After she thanked me, she made a significant disclosure:

"I had a baby last December."

She then told me her story: her parents wanted her to have an abortion. She didn't know back then how to make the case for life to convince them it was wrong to meet their wishes, but she nonetheless knew it in her heart. And so, even if she couldn't articulate it with her tongue, she would not allow abortion to be the answer.

An unplanned pregnancy.

An unmarried student.

A betrayal by one's own parents who wanted their grandchild dismembered.

Agony.Utter agony.

As she walked through that trial, a parallel suffering was being lived by two others: there was a married couple who lost not one, not two, but three children to sudden deaths. Children should expect to one day bury their parents, but parents should never have to bury their children. This couple had to bury three. Torture.

But these parallel journeys would intersect. Two crises would meet and mysteriously produce beauty: “I gave my baby up for adoption,” the student told me, “to a couple I knew for four years who had had three children and all of them died.”

She took out her phone and showed me a most precious picture of her baby girl. What joy for her to know that she played a role in bringing the gift of life, and its fruits of joy, to a couple who had known such deep sadness. What a joy for the adoptive parents to know that they played a role in receiving the gift of life and affirming the courageous and loving choice of this young woman. What a joy for both parties to know that when faced with the neediness of a little child, their response was a spirit of responsibility, generosity, and love.

Amidst the “crisis pregnancy,” the stirring in this student’s heart to consider adoption was as though God was whispering what He said in Revelation 21:5 “Behold I make all things new.”

Amidst the great loss of their children’s deaths, the adoptive couple’s reception of new life was as though God was breathing into them, “Behold, I make all things new.”

And 24 hours after that baby girl’s birth, her grandfather who had previously wished her aborted, called his daughter to apologize, and to thank her for giving life to his grandchild that he had held the day before—in that moment of mercy, it was as though the written word of God came to life yet again:

“Behold, I make all things new.”

<http://www.stephaniegray.info/blog/2015/4/24/making-all-things-new-by-stephanie-gray>

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/>

Library Corner

Redeemed by Grace: A Catholic Woman’s Journey to Planned Parenthood and Back by Ramona Trevino

Pregnant at 16, Ramona Trevino dropped out of high school and entered an abusive marriage, which ended in divorce. Wanting to make a difference and to help girls in similar tough situations, she accepted a job as the manager of a Planned Parenthood facility in Sherman, Texas. Over time, however, Ramona began to grapple with whether she was doing women more harm than good, setting her on a path to seek the truth, no matter where it might lead.

Realizing she could no longer refer women for abortions or provide them with false assurances of risk-free sex, Ramona took a leap of faith and left the financial security of her job. Her ultimate conversion involved a full return to the Catholic faith of her childhood and a new role as a pro-life advocate and speaker.

This compelling story tells of Ramona’s struggle to reconcile her identity as a daughter of God with a world that sends conflicting messages concerning the source of our dignity and happiness. It is the honest and heartfelt account of a woman who, with the help of grace, strove to overcome the wounds of her own past while becoming an agent of healing for others.

Around the Office

by Cecelia Cody, Administrative Director

On Mother’s Day weekend we had the opportunity to talk to several women in need of a bit of assistance in making the right choice about a pregnancy in progress, and also a mother who had made the wrong choice when she was 17 years old, providing resources and materials to all these beautiful ladies and guided them towards a Happy Mother’s Day. Sadly this happens much too often, yet we are happy to be there to provide a loving option.

We continue to monitor several pieces of legislation that have a “life” impact, especially the California Physician Assisted Suicide legislation.

Your donations make all this possible. Please continue to remember California Right to Life Educational Fund in your summer charitable giving plans.

Calendar of Events

*For the latest updates of events see
www.calendarforlife.org*

The Pill Kills Truth National Day of Action Saturday June 6th 2015

American Life League in a nationwide Day of Action exposing the lies behind the birth control pill and similar products. For further information see:
<http://www.thepillkills.org/>

Male and Female He Created Them August 21-22, 2015

St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco

Two day forum of presentations and discussions of masculine and feminine spirituality and sexuality; empowering sexual integrity for individuals and couples, while building healthy, happy, holy marriages. For more information see canfp.org
Or e-mail info@canfp.org or call 1-877-33-CANFP

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.

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