

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Stem Cell Treatments Review and Updates

Excerpts from article by David Prentice, Ph.D.

A human being doesn't start his earthly form at birth, but rather nine months earlier, as an embryo. King David describes this as "unformed substance" in verse 16 of Psalm 139, an apt description of our early embryonic morphology. The biological truth is that the existence of every new human organism did indeed begin at the formation of that first new organismal cell, the zygote, the combination of the egg and sperm. The lack of recognizable human structures, the unformed substance of our earliest existence, does not invalidate the humanity of our earliest stages of life.

Strange then that early human embryos, our most vulnerable stage of life and "the least of these" our fellow humans, have been targeted especially in recent years, as a source of stem cells that we were told would cure all known maladies. Yet the facts have been, and continue to be, obscured by proponents of embryonic stem cell research who are so eager to harvest stem cells from tiny humans they are blind to the truth that there are plentiful alternative sources.

Embryonic stem cells have been known to exist for decades and were studied for many years before being grown successfully in the lab. One initial point people must realize is **that the isolation of human embryonic stem cells requires the destruction of a young human embryo, and often many embryos are destroyed before one successful cell culture is achieved.**

And what of the "potential" for cures? After over 30 years, not very many mice have benefited from embryonic stem cell therapy, and to date there is no proven success with human embryonic stem cells. Embryonic stem cells are the least likely type of stem cell to help any patients. Their very nature—a tendency to incessant growth—means that they are much more likely to form a tumor than to form

healthy tissue, and so embryonic stem cells risk the life and health of those who are injected with them.

Even some embryonic stem cell advocates are beginning to admit failure. **The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, charged with spending \$3 billion of state taxpayer dollars primarily for embryonic stem cell and human cloning research, has lately been funding mostly grants for non-embryonic stem cell research,** hoping that they will have something to show for their expenditures which so far have yielded nothing from embryonic stem cells. Given the ethical taint of embryonic stem cell research, creating and destroying human life specifically for destruction, the trend away from embryonic stem cells is encouraging both for ethics as well as for practical needs of patients.

The new, ethical method of producing iPS cells (induced pluripotent stem cells) is also encouraging. The iPS cells are made by adding a few genes to a normal cell such as a skin cell, causing the normal cell to look and act like an embryonic stem cell, yet without use of embryos, eggs, or cloning technology. There is often confusion here. Even though iPS cells use an adult cell (not a stem cell) as the starting material, they are definitely not "adult stem cells," but rather an ethically derived version of embryonic stem cells.

They can be made from any person, starting with almost any normal cell, and have already been used in the laboratory as models to study cell growth, differentiation, and the development and potential treatment of disease. For example, Israeli scientists have made iPS cells from heart patients, then turned the iPS cells into beating heart cells in the lab, to study heart disease.

Adult stem cells remain the gold standard among stem cells when it comes to helping patients. The first transplants, using whole bone marrow, were done decades ago, but it took many years before these transplants were accepted as therapeutic successes. It wasn't until the 1990s that doctors

began isolating human adult stem cells, rather than using bone marrow. Today, adult stem cell transplants remain the only successful use of stem cells for patients, as documented by hundreds of published, peer-reviewed scientific articles. Adult stem cells can be isolated from many different tissues, including bone marrow, blood, muscle, fat, and umbilical cord blood, and isolating the adult stem cells from tissues of a patient or a healthy donor does not require harming or destroying the adult stem cell donor. That gives adult stem cells a distinct ethical advantage over embryonic stem cells. Over 60,000 people around the globe are treated each year with adult stem cells, because adult stem cells have a proven record at saving lives and improving health.

Here are a few samples of adult stem cell advances in the last year.

Heart damage. Adult stem cells continue to pile up the evidence for their success at improving the health of damaged hearts. Repair of damaged heart muscle in patients has been documented both for new heart attack damage as well as for patients with chronic heart failure. Doctors at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles used adult stem cells from the hearts of the patients themselves, grown in the lab and then injected back into the patients' own hearts. They found that the adult stem cells could re-grow damaged heart muscle and reduce scars in the heart tissue. Meanwhile Yale scientists used a young girl's own bone marrow adult stem cells to grow heart tissue and blood vessels to repair the girl's congenital heart problem. And doctors from the Texas Heart Institute in Houston presented evidence that adult stem cells from a patient's own bone marrow could repair damaged areas of hearts suffering from severe heart failure, allowing the heart to increase its pumping capacity to deliver oxygenated blood to the body.

Muscle repair. Scientists at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine have shown that adult stem cells from the muscle of young mice can improve the health and extend the life of aged mice. While this doesn't mean that the cells are truly the fountain of youth, it highlights the possibility of using adult stem cells for muscle repair, as well as the ability eventually to isolate "rejuvenating factors" from adult stem cells in muscle or other tissues.

New windpipes. Italian Dr. Paolo Macchiarini, who is a visiting professor at the Karolinska Institute in

Stockholm, Sweden, continues to improve on his procedure to grow new windpipes for patients. Dr. Macchiarini has grown new trachea for at least eight patients, using the patient's own adult stem cells from bone marrow to grow functional windpipes in patients with cancer or other tracheal problems. His most recent advance this year was using a synthetic substrate on which the adult stem cells are seeded, allowing them to grow and take the shape of a normal windpipe.

Grow your own transfusion. French scientists showed for the first time that a few adult stem cells from a patient could be used to grow enough red blood cells in the lab for a transfusion. The adult stem cells efficiently produced new cells that survived transfusion back into the patient's body and functioned normally.

If you'd like to see a few examples of the success of adult stem cells, see the videos at stemcellresearchfacts.org.

For the latest facts on adult stem cell transplants see lozierinstitute.org.

For original article see:

<http://www.lifenews.com/2016/12/09/over-60000-people-every-year-get-adult-stem-cell-treatments-embryonic-cells-help-no-one/>

Major Change Needed in Pro-Life Sidewalk Assistance

In the past, there have been three main points in the interaction between pro-lifers out on the sidewalk outside abortion mills, and abortion-minded women:

1. As a woman approaches, pro-lifers attempt to talk with her and discover the reason she believes she needs to have an abortion. Then, as she talks about financial hardship, relationship issues, or other matters, they try to offer solutions in an effort to eliminate the reason and, thereby, help her and save her baby.
2. Once the woman has gone into the abortion facility, pro-lifers continue earnest prayer that God will intercede and change the woman's mind and heart.
3. When the woman emerges from the abortion facility, one of two things happens:
 - a. If she announces she has decided not to go through with the abortion, pro-lifers celebrate

briefly, but then move quickly to help her solve or ameliorate the problems in her life.

b. If, however, she says she had the abortion, pro-lifers know the baby is dead. They mourn for the child, but also offer post-abortion help for the woman. They know the trauma that awaits her and give her information for places where she can get help.

The shift in the abortion business from surgical to medication abortions makes a major change in the dynamics of pro-life interaction with the mothers. You see, if the mother emerges from the abortion facility and says that she had the medication abortion, the baby is not yet dead! The child is in the process of being killed by the effects of the mifepristone drug, but he is still alive. There is medical help available if the mother now regrets her decision. That help is in the form of an Abortion Pill Reversal Procedure.

In essence, this medical procedure can stop the effects of the mifepristone drug with massive doses of progesterone. The procedure has been around since 2006 and there are doctors all over the country trained to use it. **AbortionPillReversal.com** reports that there are hundreds of babies alive today because of this procedure and that the procedure is 60 percent effective as long as the woman gets to the physician quickly.

Pro-life advocates outside abortion facilities are now armed with an additional lifesaving number: **1-877-558-0333**. That number will put the caller in touch with a hotline nurse who can quickly evaluate the situation and find the nearest doctor who is trained in the reversal procedure.

As the abortion industry discovers different methods of killing God's children, God is providing pro-lifers with more opportunities to make a difference. Let us continue to fight against every single abortion while arming ourselves with all the tools we need to save as many children as possible.

This article originally appeared in the Nov 2, 2016 issue Wednesday STOPP Report www.stopp.org/

Calendar of Events

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

STANDING UP 4LIFE in Oakland Walk
Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, California 94612 Jan. 20th, 2017 Noon

This is our Annual Standing Up 4Life Walk in Oakland. We walk because abortion in the Black community is a form of genocide. We walk because without life, nothing matters.

Contact: Walter B. Hoye II 510.225.4055 Email: life@issues4life.org

CONVERSATIONS 4 LIFE BANQUET

Friday January 20th 2017, 5PM (dinner 6PM) St. Stephen Parish Hall 1101 Keaveny Court, Walnut Creek CA 94596 Keynote Speaker: Reggie Littlejohn

For tickets call Joni Durling at 510-225-4055 ext 2 or visit <https://issues4life.ticketleap.com/benefit-dinner/>

WALK FOR LIFE – WEST COAST

San Francisco – Sat. Jan. 21, 2017

Information Faire 11AM, * Rally 12:30

Speakers include * Pam Tebow, mother of Heisman Trophy winner, Tim Tebow, * Reggie Littlejohn, Women's Rights Without Frontiers * Melissa Ohden, abortion survivor *Rev. Childress, Black Genocide.org

See: <http://www.walkforlifewc.com/>

Third Annual OneLife LA - CHOOSE LOVE

Saturday, January 21, 2017 12:00 noon beginning at La Placita/Olvera St., walk to Grand Park for a family-friendly day of inspiring speakers, live music, entertainment, food trucks, and exhibits from community organizations serving those in need. The Requiem Mass for the Unborn at the Cathedral will follow at 5pm. Website: OneLifeLA.org.

STUDENTS FOR LIFE NATIONAL CONFERENCES – *Born to Win:*

Abolishing Abortion in Our Lifetime

West Coast – Sun. Jan. 22, 2017 – St. Mary Cathedral Event Center, San Francisco.
<http://sflalive.org/>

MARCH FOR LIFE

Washington D.C. January 27 2017
<http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2017/>

RESOURCES REFERRALS

and

An update of the ever popular "article" on pro-life resources available. Please keep for future reference!

Pregnancy Resources

Pregnancy Centers (800) 712-HELP (4357)
www.optionline.org - **texting HELPLINE to #313131** Free pregnancy testing and counseling; information on abortion and other alternatives; medical, legal & community resource referrals; childbirth & parenting classes, maternal and infant clothing, baby furniture, adoption referrals.
(Cecelia says, "If you only remember one number, this is the one.... You never know when you may need it!" If you would like a business card to put in your wallet with this number, contact our office, or cut out the box at the bottom corner of this page and put it in your wallet.)

Birthright (800) 550-4900 www.birthright.org
Facing an unplanned pregnancy can be scary, overwhelming, and isolating. Birthright is here 24/7 to listen and assure a woman she is not alone during this challenging time. Birthright provides free pregnancy testing, support services, community resource information on housing, medical care referrals, infant & maternity clothes, and adoption referrals.

Gabriel Project (800) 910-0191
www.gabrielproject.com

The Gabriel Project® is a confidential, compassionate outreach to women who are distressed over an unplanned pregnancy. Local churches respond in a loving manner to the needs of the mother-to-be, witnessing to the infinite and healing love of God. A trained "Gabriel Angel" from a participating church supports the woman's choice for life through friendship, encouragement, and prayer throughout her pregnancy. In addition to providing emotional and spiritual support, the "Gabriel Angel" helps with various practical needs, including pregnancy information and assistance with pre-natal care, maternity and baby clothes, cribs, strollers, etc., referrals for housing, medical care and counseling, parenting support or adoption information.

Nurturing Network
(800) TNN-4-MOM (4666)

www.nurturingnetwork.org

The Nurturing Network (TNN) provides an individually tailored program of support free of charge to mothers whose own support networks have let them down. The comprehensive support offered by TNN's professional Staff and Volunteer Members includes specialized educational and employment assistance along with the more routine medical, housing and counseling services.

Adoption

Bethany Christian Services
800-BETHANY

<https://www.bethany.org>

Bethany Christian Services is a global nonprofit organization that brings families together and keeps families together. Strengthening families for the well-being of children is our top priority. Our services include adoption, foster care, and pregnancy counseling.

Help After an Abortion

Abortion Pill Reversal

(877) 558-0333

www.abortionpillreversal.com

Abortion Pill Reversal is a program of Culture of Life Family Services headquartered in San Diego, Ca. The Abortion Pill Reversal program has a network of over 300 physicians worldwide to assist women that call the hotline. This hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by one of our medical professionals.

Rachel's Vineyard / After the Choice
1-877-HOPE-4-ME (877-467-3463)

www.rachelsvineyard.org

A process to assist those suffering after abortion in a group setting, usually over a weekend, or several evenings; a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion.

Project Rachel – 1-888-456-HOPE (4673)

www.hopeafterabortion

It's normal to grieve a pregnancy loss, including the loss of a child by abortion. It can form a hole in one's heart, a hole so deep that sometimes it seems

nothing can fill the emptiness. Project Rachel is an outreach of the Catholic Church that is open to anyone who is struggling with an abortion loss. It offers help to women and men, parents, grandparents, siblings, friends and others whose lives have been impacted by an abortion loss. A research tool on their web site permits a search by state for the closest office. You are not alone...

Silent No More Awareness Campaign

<http://silentnomoreawareness.org/>

Seeks to expose and heal the secrecy and silence surrounding the emotional and physical pain of abortion by reaching out to people hurt by abortion, encouraging them to attend abortion after-care programs. Invite those who are ready to break the silence by speaking the truth about abortion's negative consequences and the path to healing.

Men and Abortion Network

<http://www.menandabortion.net>

Our Mission is to promote emotional healing for men who have lost a child to abortion, and to create awareness among the counseling community, pro-life movement and society as a whole regarding the impact on millions of those hurting fathers.

Support for Former Abortion Providers

And Then There Were None – 888-570-5501

<http://abortionworker.com/>

And Then There Were None (ATTWN) exists to help abortion clinic workers leave the abortion industry. By providing financial, emotional, spiritual and legal support to anyone wishing to leave the abortion industry. (founded by Abby Johnson – former abortion clinic manager)

Society of Centurions of America

<http://www.priestsforlife.org/centurions/>

founded by Dr. Philip Ney, provides a path to healing and a mutually encouraging fellowship of those who have used their professional skills to kill children by abortion, but now have ceased to do so.

Legal Counsel

Life Legal Defense Foundation

P.O. Box 210, Napa, CA 94558

707-224-6675

The mission of Life Legal Defense Foundation (LLDF) is to give innocent and helpless human beings of any age, particularly unborn children, a trained and committed defense against the threat of death, and to support their advocates in the nation's courtrooms. Our motto from our inception has been: No case is too small. And that's because we believe no human life is too small or too insignificant to deserve protection. Life Legal represents clients who desperately need immediate life-saving care. LLDF has a nationwide network of pro-life attorneys that work with us, especially in cases where a local attorney is needed to file emergency motions.

End of Life Issues

Patients Rights Council

P.O. Box 760, Steubenville, OH 43952

740-282-3810

<http://www.patientsrightscouncil.org>

Addressing Euthanasia, Assisted Suicide, Advanced Directives, Disability Rights, Pain Control and more. Patients Rights Council is an international leader in the ever-increasing debate over assisted suicide and euthanasia. Our goal is to make certain that a patient's right to receive care and compassion is not replaced by a doctor's right to prescribe poison or administer a lethal injection. Also a nationwide resource for assistance durable power of attorney for health care