

# **CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND**

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*Established 1981*

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## **Recent Happenings at the Mall**

What a wonderful day we had at the Mall on Mother's Day weekend! We hadn't even finished putting out all the pamphlets, stickers, bookmarks and other materials, when a lady came by and commented that it was a group like ours that had first allowed her to be a mother.... Like so many women experiencing a problem pregnancy, she didn't see any other CHOICE but abortion, but fortunately a group like ours put her in contact with an organization that provided her housing (Gabriel Project perhaps?) and found resources to meet all her other needs. She is now the mother of three children. She thanks us for being there and remembers those people who were there for her every day.

About a half hour later a young gal told us she had scheduled an abortion several years ago, and happened to go to an organization - she thinks it was a local Birthright Office, and they gave her a precious feet pin. She looked at those feet and thought, "I can't do this to my baby," so she never showed up for the abortion (sadly she miscarried a few weeks later, so no live birth, but still a mother's "life saved" from perpetual remorse.) She then tugged on her shirt neckline and showed us a tattoo of precious feet on her upper chest - a reminder to her of her precious pre-born baby. The day was filled with people coming up and thanking us for being there, and sharing stories....

A grandma came by and told us her daughter-in-law at age 29 and pregnant was given a test and the results pointed toward Down Syndrome. Her primary physician scheduled an appointment with another doctor and the daughter-in-law asked the potential future grandma to go with her to the consulting opinion doctor's appointment. In the waiting room were about four other women, all in their late 30s-early 40s. A video loop was playing of severely handicapped Down syndrome (drooling etc.) persons. When the daughter-in-law went into the appointment the nurse was very patronizing, saying, "Given the information you now have, do you think you want to try and have this baby?" to which the daughter-in-law said, "YES! It's my baby and God will give me the strength we need to raise the baby." (Grandma-to-be then took daughter-in-law out to a fancy white linen

tablecloth lunch!) When the baby was born, grandma looked at the face as it was being born, and even before they could tell the gender, they knew the baby did not have Down syndrome. Later in the day, the baby, now a beautiful 16-year-old girl, came with her grandma to the table. A false positive, followed by a patronizing nurse, and still the mother CHOSE LIFE!

We had a few new faces at the May Mall Table, but are looking for even more involvement, especially survivors of the "Abortion Generation" which includes everyone under 35. Do you realize that 25-33% of your classmates and co-workers were never born because they were murdered in the womb? We must stop the killing, and the first step is educating the general public on the development of the baby in the womb and the horror of killing the precious pre-born.

**"Pro-Choice," what are you choosing?  
Mall tables help people make the RIGHT Choice.**

## **Adult Stem Cell Research With Cord Blood and Type I Diabetes**

The embryonic stem cell research industry in America is trying to convince the American public that the only way to help those with diabetes is by using stem cells that can only be obtained by destroying human embryos, tiny humans in the first days of development. Yet scientists continue to make progress with adult stem cells. In a world first, a team of researchers from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and Newcastle University have proven that stem cells from umbilical cords can create insulin that may someday help cure Type I diabetes.

The stem cells would stimulate the body to grow its own insulin-producing cells for a damaged or defective pancreas. Scientists say they have engineered adult stem cells derived from human umbilical cord blood to produce insulin.

The June 2007 issue of the medical journal *Cell Proliferation*, calls this research "the first

demonstration that human umbilical cord blood-derived stem cells can be engineered" to synthesize insulin.

"This discovery tells us that we have the potential to produce insulin from adult stem cells to help people with diabetes," said Dr. Randall J. Urban, senior author of the paper. Urban is the professor and chair of internal medicine at UTMB's Nelda and Lucher Stark Diabetes Center.

Stressing that the reported discovery is extremely basic research, Urban cautioned: "It doesn't prove that we're going to be able to do this in people — it's just the first step up the rung of the ladder."

UTMB professor of internal medicine / endocrinology Larry Denner said that by working with adult stem cells rather than embryonic stem cells, doctors practicing so-called regenerative medicine eventually might be able to extract stem cells from an individual's own blood, grow the stem cells in the laboratory to large numbers and tweak them so that they are directed to create a needed organ.

In this way, he said, physicians could avoid the usual pitfall involved in transplanting cells or organs from other people — organ rejection, which requires organ recipients to take immune-suppressing drugs for the rest of their lives.

Denner said this research reflects a fruitful collaboration with co-authors Drs. Colin McGuckin and Nico Forraz at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne in the United Kingdom. McGuckin and Forraz were the first in the world to show it was possible to produce stem cells from the umbilical cord blood, which is often discarded after the baby is born. Last October they received worldwide acclaim when they used human umbilical cord blood, an especially rich source of fresh adult stem cells, to create a miniature liver by manipulating stem cells.

The researchers said they tested adult stem cells in the laboratory to ensure that they were predisposed to divide. Then they used a previously successful method in which complex signals produced by the embryonic mouse pancreas were used to direct adult stem cells to begin developing, or "differentiating," into islet-like cells.

As they grew these adult stem cells in the laboratory, the researchers conducted other tests in which the cells to be engineered showed evidence of a characteristic, or marker, known as SSEA-4 that was previously thought to exist only in embryonic cells.

Not only did they produce insulin, the researchers also found traces of a substance C-peptide, a part of the insulin precursor protein, and insulin itself, thus proving that the insulin was generated by the stem cells.

## Stem Cell Patch Restores Vision

A man's vision has been restored by a corneal patch grown from adult stem cells by a team at the University of Melbourne's Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) and the Bernard O'Brien Institute of Microsurgery (BOBIM).

The patch, which replicates the cornea, was cultivated from a single stem cell from a donor eye and was transplanted to the surface of the man's eyes.

The process, known as a limbal stem cell transplant, is thought to be the first of its kind in Australia. The Melbourne success significantly advances international research in limbal stem cell transplantation in the eyes.

The patient had severe vision loss caused by stem cell failure on the surface of the eye, causing scarring and a vascularized and opaque appearance.

"He had reduced mobility, could not read and could not work, but he has now resumed duties as an accountant, enjoys sight (slightly lower than normal 20/20 acuity), and has increased mobility, quality of life, and renewed optimism," Dr Daniell reports.

He says the surface of the man's eyes was removed and the patch (about 50mm long and a micron thick) was applied and is healing well. "This technique can now assist people with alkaline burns who have damage to the surface of their eyes."

Dr Daniell and his team are now working toward

***Adult Stem Cell  
Research  
breakthroughs aid  
in treatment of  
diabetes, macular  
degeneration, and  
corneal transplants.***

developing a totally bio-engineered cornea, using a stem cell extracted from elsewhere on a person's body other than the eye.

*[The University of Melbourne Voice Vol. 1, No. 3  
16-30 April 2007]*

## **Adult Stem Cell Research treats age-related macular degeneration (AMD)**

Doctors are using adult stem cell research to treat blind patients and their conditions have vastly improved. Retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells within the eye play a vital role in the survival and maintenance of the rods and cones that detect light and color. Death of RPE cells may lead to the condition known as AMD.

The use of adult stem cells has already helped the blind to see thanks to doctors who extract stem cells from patients' own eyes, then culture healthy tissue to repair their corneas.

"I feel like a human being again," Deborah Catlyn told the London Telegraph in April 2005. She regained her sight after losing it in 2002 when a woman at a nightclub threw acid in her face.

Catlyn is one of 20 Britons whom this adult stem cell procedure has enriched. It was developed at Hyderabad, India's Prasad Eye Institute, where some 200 blind people have been treated, most of them successfully.

Meanwhile, scientists at Scripps Research Institute used bone marrow stem cells to grow new blood vessels in the eyes of mice, a development researchers say could lead to treatments for some forms of blindness in humans, including diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration.

The injected adult stem cells targeted the parts of the eye where they were needed, grew new blood vessels, and prevented blindness in the mice.

The research findings were published in the medical journal Nature in July 2002.

Last month, Scripps scientists received a \$17 million grant for adult stem cell use to treat eye diseases.

"Our goal in the next five years is to develop this new approach to treating retinal diseases to the point it can be tested in the clinic," said the initiative's principal investigator Martin Friedlander, a professor at Scripps Research and retina specialist at Scripps Clinic.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity to take highly novel laboratory concepts, test them experimentally, and translate them into therapies for the treatment of blinding eye disease."

**Do you know someone who might be  
considering abortion?  
Make sure they get the facts first!  
A LIFE depends on it...  
1-800-395-HELP (4357)**

## **Around the Office**

If you are on our e-alert e-mail list you already heard the good news... On Thursday June 7 the California State Assembly was unable to muster enough votes to pass the latest version of the Physician Assisted Suicide bill (AB 374.) A special thank you to all who helped through informing friends, family and neighbors, and everyone else you encountered, and in the efforts to contact assemblypersons to defeat this terrible piece of legislation. Thanks go especially to those who signed postcards, put flyers up in your church; and made those phone calls; everyone who did anything played a vital part in the defeat of this legislation.

Are you using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) for your Internet searches? In our February 2007 newsletter we presented a new search engine website that donates half its revenue to charity. It works just like any other search engine (Google, as an example.) Since some of you are already using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com), our account balance grows each day. If you have any questions, or need help setting up your computer, contact Cecelia Cody at 925-944-5351.

Our "Project Mustard Seed" is approaching 100 members. Each month they receive ONE e-mail to write a letter to the head of ONE organization that supports Planned Parenthood. Once you draft your letter, you can use the same letter each month, and just change the addressee. If you would like further information on this project, contact our office at [callife@calright2life.org](mailto:callife@calright2life.org) .

**ACTION ITEMS IN REVIEW:**

- Use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) for your internet search engine.
- Do we have your current e-mail address
- Consider volunteering for a mall table
- Join Project Mustard Seed
- Ask your pastor if you can put a few pro-life pamphlets in the church pamphlet rack, then contact our office and we will add you to our monthly mailing list.
- Send us a small donation if you can....

**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.