

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Established 1981

August 2010

## How Various Contraceptive Techniques are Frequently Abortive

by John Smeaton,

Director, Society for Protection of Unborn Children

Father John Fleming, SPUC's bioethical consultant, has shared his reflections on a recently-published interview with Monsignor Jacques Suaudeau, the Scientific Director of the Pontifical Academy for Life, on the links between contraception and abortion. In a scientifically and ethically sophisticated interview (21st of April 2010), "[Contraception and abortion](#)", Monsignor Jacques Suaudeau, Scientific Director of the Pontifical Academy for Life, sets out the interrelationship between certain forms of contraception and abortion.

The Suaudeau interview is extremely important because it discusses the link between contraception in terms which are scrupulously rigorous, not making more of the evidence than the evidence would allow and not minimizing the implications of what the evidence clearly suggests.

In answer to the question, "**So contraceptives prevent the conception of a child?**" Monsignor Suaudeau immediately responds with the observation that that is not all that contraceptives do. Other technical methods gathered under the rubric of "contraceptives" include what are more properly known as "interceptives," techniques which prevent the embryo from implanting. Added to that are techniques known as "contragestives," so-called because "they cause the elimination of a newly-implanted embryo."

Monsignor Suaudeau notes that contraceptive proponents have always argued that contraceptive use would "contribute to a reduction in the number of intentional abortions" among adolescents.

But, says, Monsignor Suaudeau:

"Fifty years after the introduction of the first contraceptive pill, the reality is that, far from reducing the number of abortions, contraception has itself become increasingly abortive. Indeed, it is in the functioning itself of the 'pill' that abortion gains an entry."

Monsignor Suaudeau then goes on to rehearse the scientific evidence which backs up his melancholy summation of where we are now. In doing this he identifies all of the various modern contraceptive techniques, describing in detail how they actually work, and laying bare for all to see the necessary connection between contraception and abortion.

In returning to an earlier question,

**"Has the generalized use of contraception allowed the practice of abortion to decline?"**

Monsignor Suaudeau brings all of his scientific expertise to bear in a well articulated philosophical and moral response:

"Contraception and abortion are in fact closely linked. They are linked in their biological reality. They are linked in the mentality which presupposes them. Abortion directly refuses and destroys the

baby. Contraception also refuses the baby and uses any means at its disposal to counter the arrival of baby. In both cases, the baby is the enemy. He or she becomes the accidental product of genital activity reduced to mere pleasure or irresponsible futility based on a corrupt notion of human sexuality. 'Sex' takes priority over the baby. If the baby arrives in spite of the use of contraception, it is no longer, as previously, accepted, but rejected and aborted. This is why it was logical for abortion to be liberalized once contraception had been made generally available, to remedy foreseeable failures of contraception. Far from curbing abortion, contraception may even lead to it. It is always easy to proceed from one to the other."

*Far from reducing the number of abortions, contraception has itself become increasingly abortive.*

Harnessing the social research data to hand in Scandinavia and Europe, Monsignor Suaudeau is able to show the truth of his conclusion that contraception leads to abortion. Monsignor Suaudeau concludes with a devastating series of observations. Here is a sample:

- Far from reducing the number of abortions, contraception to some extent finds in abortion a natural unfolding. Given that the contraceptive mentality is in fact close to the abortive mentality, large-scale use of contraception in the developed nations has contributed to the routine use of abortion.
- Scientific research today is oriented towards the development of increasingly “effective” contraceptive techniques to prevent conception and the continuation of pregnancy, with increasingly less risk to the woman, resulting in increasingly abortifacient contraception. This is a further demonstration of the close link, not only cultural but also scientific, between the use of contraception and the demand for abortion.
- To avoid uttering the word “abortion”, people talk about the pharmacological “prevention” of implantation, “interception” or “contragestion.” It is also asserted that the embryo is not an embryo as long as it is not implanted in the lining of the uterus, but simply a “pre-embryo,” a mass of cells which does not call for any particular respect. However, a play on words cannot change the reality of the facts.
- ... pastors, theologians and spiritual advisers who, verbally or in writing, endorse the use of contraception, must know that, in so doing, they are endorsing all the abortions thereby caused and to be caused, which will amount to the death of millions of individuals.
- Today there is nothing heroic, exceptional or disingenuous in resorting, within the framework of responsible parenthood, to “natural” methods of controlling female fertility, whose scientific basis, efficacy and benefits to couples in terms of deeper conjugal communion, are known ...

This is a paper which deserves the widest possible readership and should have an honored place, as a key reference tool, on the desks of all pro-lifers.

## **Blind Sided in Cincinnati**

Excerpted from an article by Bradley Mattes  
Executive Director, Life Issues Institute

Not long ago, a Hollywood film, “The Blind Side,” left viewers across America marveling at one family’s compassion in adopting a troubled young teen. This week another such story emerged in the folds of a Minnesota newspaper.

It centers on a pregnant eleventh-grader, who, despite pressure from her boyfriend and mother to have an abortion, decided to protect her baby’s life. But four months into the pregnancy, La’Shay Ester found herself estranged from an already broken family, struggling to juggle school and a full-time job, and in need of some serious help.

That’s when the school nurse, Kathleen Hook, stepped in. It started with small gestures—a hug, some crackers and juice, a place to rest in between classes—but quickly grew into an extraordinary relationship. While others in the school raised disapproving eyebrows, the Hook family offered La’Shay a place to live. They eventually became her legal guardians. And that’s made all the difference in the world for La’Shay.

With the family’s support, the teen is pressing on. She graduated from high school months early, just in time for the birth of her son, Santana. By working at a retail super center, she saved enough money to purchase a car so she can commute between her job and the daycare. And this fall, she plans to attend a private four-year university—one that Kathleen helped her apply for—and move in to her own apartment.

The thriving young mother says she owes it all to Kathleen. “I couldn’t have made it without her,” she told the newspaper. It felt like “someone loves me, someone cares.”

This kind of compassion is exactly what the pro-life community should—and I believe does—represent. When young mothers are hurting, they don’t need another person telling them they can’t succeed, that their only option is death for their child and pain for themselves. They need practical help, someone to point them in the right direction. Most of all, they need

encouragement to pursue the dreams they have for themselves *and* their babies.

Kathleen is a beautiful example of love in action. Still, she simply considers her family the “launch pad” for La’Shay. While others saw a disadvantaged teen destined to failure, Kathleen saw a mother and child in need of a champion. Please, be that champion for someone today. Generations depend on us to love and care for unborn babies and their parents.

**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)**

## **Saving Alex: Mainstream Media Ignores Success of Adult Stem Cell Treatments**

by Maria Vitale

Alex R. Szeles has lived the American dream. The Pennsylvania native married his high school sweetheart, became successful in several businesses, raised four children, and has lived to see 18 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In an op-ed piece in the Patriot-News newspaper, he recalls receiving the shock of his life in April of 2007, when he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow’s plasma cells. “My prognosis was that if treatments were to be started immediately, they could possibly buy me two years. But I wanted more.”

So Alex and his wife Dory journeyed to the University of Arkansas and the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy. Alex’s relief came by way of adult stem cell transplants.

As he says in the Patriot-News, “I love the life that my wife and I have built together. I am fighting for my life with every fiber of my being. I have beaten the odds and am now 36 months past the date of my diagnosis.” Alex notes that adult stem cells have successfully treated more than 70 diseases, according to the Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics ([www.stemcellresearch.org](http://www.stemcellresearch.org)). As he points out in the

Patriot-News piece, “Adult stem cells have alleviated ailments such as diabetes and Parkinson’s disease, and they carry with them none of the controversy that marks embryonic stem cell research, which has cured not a single mouse and involves the killing of human embryos.”

Alex goes on to say, “I am not willing to have another life—tiny though it may be—cut short so that I might have a longer life. I stand as a living example of the success of stem cell research, entirely ethical research, which gives hope and life and harms no one.”

Unfortunately, the mainstream media largely ignore the phenomenal successes of adult stem cell research, focusing instead on the literal dead-end represented by embryonic stem cell research. As the Coalition states, “If the goal is to put patients, not patents, first, and provide near term benefits but at lesser long term profits, then adult stem cells are, from a therapeutic perspective, clearly preferable.”

Adult stem cell research represents sound science and good business. If a respected businessman such as Alex Szeles is willing to bet his life on it, it is worthy of greater respect and more research dollars. The public relations machine behind embryonic stem cell research is just another giant myth-maker, selling people on the false hope that embryo-killing transplants will cure what ails them.

In years to come, it may be that Americans will finally see through the lies of unscrupulous members of the biotech industry and realize that “embryonic stem cell research” is just another term for disaster.

<http://www.lifenews.com/bio3126.html>

## **Calendar of Events**

**August 25 Napa Ca – Eric Genuis** music concert – For further information, contact Ron Maxson [nvcofl@gmail.com](mailto:nvcofl@gmail.com) or 707-337-6887 (article in last month’s newsletter)

**September 22-October 31 - Fall 40-Days-for-Life** “God puts the right person at the right time in the right place. The only qualification necessary to do His will is to be available.”- Elena *40daysforlife San Diego*. Is there a 40-Days for Life in your area? Is God calling

you to assist in starting one? Please visit <http://www.40daysforlife.com/> or contact this office for further information.

**Saturday, October 9, 2010 San Francisco  
Archdiocesan Respect Life Conference**

St. Francis Hall, St. Mary's Cathedral, Geary and Gough Streets, San Francisco. In conjunction with the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) of Philadelphia, topics will be presented related to *Marriage as seen through the Dignity of the Person*.

**Tuesday November 2 – Election Day 2010**

Start now to learn the about candidates' positions on important issues including the protection of all innocent life from fertilization to natural death, as well as be informed on the various propositions. It is our duty to be informed citizens and to vote our consciences.

**Saturday - January 22, 2011 – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Life.** Mark your calendars now (if you haven't already) for the largest gathering of Pro-Lifers on the West Coast. For further information visit:

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

**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.