

# **CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND**

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## **'Just Say NO to New Aborted Fetal Vaccine'**

Children of God for Life is calling on the medical profession to "just say no" to the newly US licensed vaccine, Pentacel, made by Sanofi Pasteur using aborted fetal tissue. On June 26th the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended the vaccine be added to the immunization schedule for children, despite the fact that moral alternatives have been used in the U.S. for years.

"We find it strange that the ACIP would recommend Pentacel in particular when children are already receiving untainted versions of these vaccines in their routine series of shots", said Debi Vinnedge, Executive Director for Children of God for Life.

Pentacel is a combination vaccine of Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus (DTaP) plus HiB and Polio. The polio portion of the vaccine uses aborted fetal cell line MRC-5, taken from the lung tissue of an electively aborted 14-week gestation baby.

"If a 5 in 1 vaccine is desired, why not recommend the ethical version, Pediarix, by Glaxo SmithKline?" Vinnedge wanted to know. "The only difference between the two is that Pediarix protects against Hepatitis-B instead of HiB. Doctors using Pediarix today give separate shots for HiB. With Pentacel they will still have to give separate shots for Hepatitis-B so its not like Pentacel is reducing the number of injections."

Vinnedge noted the push for Pentacel by the ACIP seems like a financial plug for Sanofi Pasteur, since sales of the vaccine may be lagging in both the US and Canada. Last year Canadian Physicians for Life successfully lobbied for access to Pediacel, a European version identical to Pentacel, except it does not use aborted fetal cell lines.

In May 2006, the Catholic Medical Association issued a formal statement noting that, "When alternative

vaccines are available, they must be used in place of those produced by immoral means." Likewise, the Christian Medical and Dental Association have repeatedly called on the industry to stop using aborted fetal cell lines in vaccine production.

"It is our hope that physicians will simply continue purchasing the competing products they have used for years", Ms Vinnedge added. "The only way these drug companies will get the message is when their bottom line suffers and in the case of Pentacel, we certainly hope it will."

## **Stem Cell Breakthrough: Mass-Production of Stem Cells From a Single Human Hair**

The first reports of the successful reprogramming of adult human cells back into so-called induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, which by all appearances looked and acted like embryonic stem cells, created a media stir. But the process was woefully inefficient: Only one out of 10,000 cells could be persuaded to turn back the clock.

Now, a team of researchers led by Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, succeeded in boosting the reprogramming efficiency more than 100-fold, while cutting the time it takes in half. In fact, they repeatedly generated iPS cells from the tiny number of keratinocytes attached to a single hair plucked from a human scalp.

Their method, published ahead of print in the Oct. 17, 2008 online edition of Nature Biotechnology, not only provides a practical and simple alternative for the generation of patient- and disease-specific stem cells, which had been hampered by the low efficiency of the reprogramming process, but also spares patients invasive procedures to collect suitable starting

**"When alternative vaccines are available, they must be used in place of those produced by immoral means."**

material, since the process only requires a single human hair.

"Having a very efficient and practical way of generating patient-specific stem cells, which unlike human embryonic stem cells, wouldn't be rejected by the patient's immune system after transplantation brings us a step closer to the clinical application of stem cell therapy," says Belmonte, PhD., a professor in the Gene Expression Laboratory and director of the Center of Regenerative Medicine in Barcelona, Spain.

Keratinocytes form the uppermost layer of skin and produce keratin, a tough protein that is the primary constituent of hair, nails and skin. They originate in the basal layer of the epidermis, from where they move up through the different layers of the epidermis and are eventually shed.

While scientists have successfully reprogrammed different types of mouse cells (fibroblasts, liver and intestinal cells), skin fibroblasts were the only human cell type they had ever tried their hands on.

Fibroblasts help make the connective tissue in the body and are the primary cell type in the deeper layers of the skin, where they are responsible for wound healing and the secretion of proteins that form collagen.

For the first set of experiments, first author Trond Aasen, Ph.D., a postdoctoral researcher at the Center of Regenerative Medicine in Barcelona, used viral vectors to slip the genes for the master regulators Oct4, Sox2, as well as Klf4 and c-Myc into keratinocytes cultured from human skin explants.

After only 10 days — instead of the more typical three to four weeks — one out of 100 hundred cells grew into a tiny colony with all the markings of a typical human embryonic stem cell colony.

The researchers then successfully prodded what they call keratinocyte-derived iPS cells or KiPS cells to distinguish them from fibroblast-derived iPS cells into becoming all the cell types in the human body, including heart muscle cells and dopamine-producing neurons, which are affected by Parkinson's disease.

Taking advantage of the high efficiency of the keratinocyte reprogramming process, Aasen decided to test whether he could establish KiPS cells from minute amounts of biological samples. "We plucked a

single hair from a co-worker's scalp and cultured the keratinocytes, which are found in the outer root sheet area," recalls Aasen. He then successfully reprogrammed these cells into bona fide KiPS cells.

Just why keratinocytes appear to be much more malleable than other cell types is still an open question. "We checked a whole rainbow of cells and found keratinocytes to be the easiest to be reprogrammed," says Belmonte. "It is still not clear exactly why that is and knowing it will be very important for the technology to develop fully," he speculates.

They researchers did find one hint, though. When they compared the expression profiles of genes related to stem cell identity, growth or differentiation between keratinocytes, fibroblasts, human embryonic stem cells (hESC) and KiPS cells, keratinocytes had more in common with hESCs and KiPS cells than with fibroblasts.

Researchers who also contributed to the study include Angel Raya, Ph.D., Maria J. Barrero, Ph.D., Elena Garreta, Ph.D., Antonella Consiglio, Ph.D., Federico Gonzales, Ph.D., Rita Vassena, Ph.D., Josipa Bilic, Ph.D., Vladimir Pekarik, Ph.D., Gustavo Tiscornia, Ph.D., Michael Edel, Ph.D., and Stéphanie Boué, Ph.D., at the Center of Regenerative Medicine in Barcelona, Spain.

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ScienceDaily (Oct. 18, 2008)

Adapted from materials provided by [Salk Institute](#)

## **Link Between Abortion and Mental Health Problems**

Numerous studies have shown that women who have undergone abortion are at higher risk of depression and other disorders afterwards.

The most recent study, published in the *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*, found that women who had an abortion in their 20's were more likely to score above the cut-off rate for depression. The author concluded that "[y]oung adult women who undergo induced abortion may be at increased risk for depression."<sup>1</sup>

The findings came from a survey of 768 women in Norway who were tracked between the ages of

15 and 27. The women answered questions about their reproductive history and depression and were also surveyed about their family relationships and other characteristics that could also cause depression.

### More Findings

The latest findings are just one in a number of studies linking abortion to increased risk of depression and other disorders. Other studies found that:

- Among women who had abortions, 64 percent of American women reported multiple symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which they attributed to their abortions. Slightly over 14 percent reported all the symptoms necessary for a clinical diagnosis of abortion induced PTSD.<sup>2</sup>
- Compared to women who carry their first unintended pregnancies to term, women who abort their first pregnancies are at significantly higher risk of clinical depression as measured an average of eight years after their first pregnancies.<sup>3</sup>
- Compared to women who gave birth, women who aborted were 65 percent more likely to be at risk of long-term clinical depression after controlling for age, race, education, marital status, history of divorce, income, and prior psychiatric state.<sup>4</sup>
- Among women with no prior history of anxiety, women who aborted a first, unintended pregnancy were 30 percent more likely to subsequently report all the symptoms associated with a diagnosis for generalized anxiety disorder, compared to women who carried to term.<sup>5</sup>
- In a record based study of nearly 57,000 women with no known history of sleep disorders, women were more likely to be treated for sleep disorders after having an abortion compared to giving birth. Numerous studies have shown that trauma victims will often experience sleep difficulties.<sup>6</sup>
- In a New Zealand study headed by a pro-choice researcher, women with a history of abortion were nearly twice as likely to suffer major depression compared to women who carried to term, and had higher rates of substance abuse, anxiety disorders and suicidal

behavior—even after ruling out women who had mental health problems before abortion.<sup>7</sup>

Several studies have also linked abortion to other problems such as substance abuse, suicide, and higher rates of psychiatric care. Further, many women abort because of pressure, disinformation, coercion and even force from others. In one survey, 64 percent of women who had abortions reported being pressured by others, while 84 percent said they did not receive enough counseling to make a decision.<sup>8</sup>

Women being screened and treated for depression and other disorders could be helped if mental health professionals ask about a history of abortion and other pregnancy loss, and help provide resources to help them work through unresolved issues related to the abortion.

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For more information on these and other studies, see <http://www.theunchoice.com/pdf/FactSheets/RecentResearch.pdf>

### Citations

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8. VM Rue et. al., "Induced abortion and traumatic stress: A preliminary comparison of American and Russian women," *Medical Science Monitor* 10(10): SR5-16, 2004.

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

## Around the Office

Several years ago we were given a donation to develop an abstinence program. We include this material in our monthly mail table, and have provided resource materials for several classroom teachers. In early November Cecelia was invited to give a presentation at a high school on "Save Sex for Marriage." Her presentation was well received. If you know of a school or perhaps a youth group that would be interested in this sort of presentation, please contact our office.

We are always assessing the needs of the community and expanding our efforts into these areas. However we depend on a continual flow of funds in order to be able to continue our efforts. Your support allows us to be there and maintain a cupboard of materials to respond to requests in a timely manner.

We also are continually recruiting speakers. If you would be interested in joining Cecelia as a classroom speaker, please contact this office. Training and information will be provided.

### 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.