

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Walk for Life West Coast

By The Student Team member Jelani Smith

This year, I attended the Walk for Life West Coast for the third year in-a-row. There were some changes to the Walk from previous years: the route, which formerly was from Justin Herman Plaza in front of the Ferry Building to Fort Mason, was changed to a shorter route along Market Street starting at City Hall and ending at the Ferry Building. To my understanding, the amount of people that attended the march increased by the thousands. The change in route perhaps aided the cause—we were able to get our message out to a wider variety of people having gathered in front of City Hall and marching down one of San Francisco's busiest streets.

The best, and most important component of the Walk for Life is the spirit of the marchers—the sense of solidarity and unity in the common cause to end the evil of abortion in this country. We had one message, which we asserted loud and clear—we are pro-woman and pro-life. The spirit of hope was palpable. I saw more church groups, schools and families than ever before. Taking BART on the way to City Hall I sat near two families who had brought all their children—about seven combined, ranging in age from a few months old to teens—all there in support of life. I felt proud to be walking in solidarity for life with so many diverse people: woman, man, young, old, Black, White, Latino, Catholic and Protestant. This spirit of hope could be seen in the faces of the walkers, and heard in their songs and prayers that were recited as we walked along Market Street.

Each year I come to the Walk for Life, I again experience the hope that the pro-life movement is all about—hope for change in the way society views and treats life, hope for the coming generation which we vehemently defend, hope for an END to abortion.

Perhaps the most telling aspect of the Walk for Life is the peacefulness of it. The speeches at the beginning are not based in hate in anger, but rather love. Of course, we show our love for the unborn. But we also show love for those who do not believe in our cause, for those women who have already had abortions and for those who actively fight for the expansion of abortion. We show this love in our prayers for them. In the manner the Christ taught us, we forgive those who have offended life and deal peacefully with the counter-protesters who at times hurl insults towards us.

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Decrees Insurers Cover Contraceptives “Next Year”

By Life Legal Defense Foundation Staff

On Friday January 20, 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services announced a one-year reprieve for some insurers to the controversial “contraceptive mandate” issued last August. The mandate requires that all insurance providers cover the full range of FDA-approved contraceptive drugs and devices, including those that can be used post-conception to destroy existing human life.

The reprieve was aimed at a narrow group of insurers: groups that do not already carry contraceptives and who do not already meet the definition of “religious employer.” Those who are allowed to avail themselves of the reprieve will still be forced to tell their employees where to obtain contraceptives.

“Although couched in terms of compromise, this postponement simply adds insult to injury since it protects a mere fraction of those impacted by the mandate, and it does not address the core objections to

the mandate: the rule's evisceration of rights of conscience," states Dana Cody, Life Legal Defense Foundation's President and Executive Director. "Waiting a year shifts some of the impact of the mandate down the road, allowing the Obama Administration to appear sympathetic to the American value of freedom of conscience in this election year. The Obama administration shows again that it can play politics well, but has little interest in protecting the sincerely held conscientious beliefs of Americans."

Numerous groups, including Life Legal Defense Foundation, submitted comments on the contraceptive rule to HHS in September, arguing that the narrow exemption provided for "religious employers" was essentially meaningless. For instance, the exemption would potentially cover places of worship, but would not cover religious groups that provide social services, education or engage outreach to people of different religious faiths, nor would it cover religious health insurance companies, religious health care providers, or individuals.

Legal analysts have suggested that the mandate not only violates existing conscience protections on abortion such as the Hyde/Weldon Amendment (in that drugs that can act as abortifacients are covered, such as Plan B and Ella), but also violates the principles of the Church Amendments which protect the conscience rights of those who object to medical services on moral or religious grounds.

Adult Stem Cell Study Finds Success in Treating Diabetes

By Rebecca Taylor | Washington, DC |
LifeNews.com | 1/11/12 12:22 PM

More great news in the adult stem cell field! Researchers from the University of Illinois have reported they have improved insulin production in people with type 1 diabetes.

It is thought that type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease meaning that something causes the patient's white blood cells to attack the pancreas cells that produce insulin, a hormone that regulates blood sugar. These researchers took the patient's blood and circulated it with cord blood stem cells that reprogrammed the patient's white blood cells, called lymphocytes. The blood was reintroduced to the

patient and insulin production increased enough to be able to reduce the amount of insulin the patient needed to take in order to regulate their blood sugar levels. They call this technique the "Stem Cell Educator."

A press release reported: Type 1 diabetes is caused by the body's own immune system attacking its pancreatic islet beta cells and requires daily injections of insulin to regulate the patient's blood glucose levels. A new method described in BioMed Central's open access journal BMC Medicine uses stem cells from cord blood to re-educate a diabetic's own T cells and consequently restart pancreatic function reducing the need for insulin.

Stem Cell Educator therapy slowly passes lymphocytes separated from a patient's blood over immobilized cord blood stem cells (CBSC) from healthy donors. After two to three hours in the device the re-educated lymphocytes are returned to the patient. The progress of the patients was checked at 4, 12, 24 and 40 weeks after therapy.

C-peptide is a protein fragment made as a by-product of insulin manufacture and can be used to determine how well beta cells are working. By 12 weeks after treatment all the patients who received the therapy had improved levels of C-peptide. This continued to improve at 24 weeks and was maintained to the end of the study. This meant that the daily dose of insulin required to maintain their blood glucose levels could be reduced. In accordance with these results the glycated hemoglobin (HbA1C) indicator of long term glucose control also dropped for people receiving the treatment, but not the control group.

LifeNews.com Note: Rebecca Taylor is a clinical laboratory specialist in molecular biology, and a practicing pro-life Catholic who writes at the bioethics blog [Mary Meets Dolly](#). She has been writing and speaking about Catholicism and biotechnology for five years and has been interviewed on EWTN radio on topics from stem cell research and cloning to voting pro-life. Taylor has a B.S. in Biochemistry from University of San Francisco with a national certification in clinical Molecular Biology MB (ASCP).

<http://www.lifenews.com/2012/01/11/adult-stem-cell-study-finds-success-in-treating-diabetes/>

Gardasil Watch

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

By Debi Vinnedge,
Executive director of Children of God for Life

Besides being recognized by Christian pro-lifers as Sanctity of Human Life Month, January is also designated by the U.S. Congress as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Research organizations, medical providers and pharmaceutical companies are highlighting issues related to cervical cancer, HPV disease and the importance of early detection. Merck is taking particular advantage of the occasion to once again tout its HPV vaccine, Gardasil. However, there is important information the public needs to know about Gardasil and HPV in general.

Currently, there are more than 30 different known forms of sexually transmitted disease in our world. Human papilloma virus (HPV) is just one such sexually transmitted disease and HPV itself involves more than 160 different strains. HPV can affect both males and females. HPV is not spread through the air or through casual, platonic exposure; it is spread through genital contact of any type with an infected person. Sexual intercourse is not necessary. Further, HPV is not prevented through use of condoms.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in the United States, an estimated 75% to 80% of males and females will be infected with HPV in their lifetime. There are about 6 million new cases of genital HPV in the United States each year. It's estimated that 74% of them occur in 15- to 24-year-olds. Many people who have HPV don't even know it, because the virus often has no signs or symptoms. That means you can get the virus or pass it on to your partner without knowing it. In other cases, HPV causes genital warts.

70% of HPV infections resolve themselves without treatment in one year and 90% after two years. Of the remaining 10% of infections, only half are linked to cervical cancer. The HPV virus does not directly cause cervical cancer - rather, it is persistent HPV infection that can increase the incidence of pre-cancerous lesions leading to cervical cancer. Those risks are doubled by long-term oral contraceptive use in HPV-infected girls/women. However, according to the Oral Cancer Foundation, HPV has been shown to be linked to an

increasing incidence of oral cancers due to the fact that HPV can be transmitted between partners via oral sex.

Most media outlets have described the highly touted Gardasil, produced by Merck Pharmaceuticals, as a vaccine to prevent cervical cancer. This is erroneous and has created a very distorted perception in the eyes of the general public. Gardasil is a vaccine against one form of a sexually transmitted disease, not cancer! (Note also that cervical cancer may be caused by factors other than HPV infection as well.)

Gardasil is a vaccine designed to protect against two of the HPV strains which are believed to be linked to cervical cancer (Types 16 and 18) and another two strains which cause genital warts (Types 6 and 11). This still leaves those vaccinated susceptible to another 11 strains which are associated with cervical cancer as well as the host of other HPV strains.

According to the American Cancer Society, the cervical cancer death rate declined by 74% between 1955 and 1992 and continues to decline by nearly 4% annually due to regular PAP tests. The U.S. cervical cancer rate is 8 per 100,000 women. It is one of the most treatable forms of cancer with a death rate of 1.6 to 3.7 per 100,000 cases.

Despite the fact that a number of high profile doctors and nonprofit groups funded by Merck are proclaiming Gardasil as a means of preventing cervical cancer, clinical trials never tested for prevention of cervical cancer. The vaccine was tested for prevention of pre-cancerous lesions associated with just two strains of HPV! Since these lesions can take 12 to 20 years to develop into cervical cancer and the clinical trials lasted less than five years, medical experts warn that the jury is still out on what impact this vaccine might have on cervical cancer rates.

Alarming Facts about Gardasil: Gardasil actually increases the risk of cervical cancer and pre-cancerous lesions by 44.6% in girls who may already have one of the 4 HPV viruses in the vaccine. This is significant because pre-vaccination screening will not detect a specific type of HPV, rendering Gardasil potentially lethal for sexually active girls. Gardasil contains Polysorbate 80 which is known to cause infertility in mice, anaphylactic shock and immune system problems in humans. Fertility impairment was studied in rats, not humans. Gardasil may cause unexpected immunological side effects, reducing the body's

resistance to the other types of HPV. Gardasil has not been tested for efficacy in girls under 15 years old, yet it is recommended for girls as young as nine.

As of January 15, 2011, over 21,000 adverse reactions from Merck's Gardasil vaccine were reported to the government's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) following Gardasil vaccination including:

147 miscarriages, stroke, genital warts, Guillain-Barre Syndrome, ovarian cysts, multiple recurring seizures, cardiac arrest, multiple sclerosis, lupus, neural inflammation, paralysis, menstruation cessation, blood clots, permanent disabilities . . . and 91 deaths.

For more information, contact this office for a copy of the brochure "Gardasil - One Less or One More?" Or visit <http://www.all.org/article/index/id/OTYyNA/>

Calendar of Events

See www.calendarforlife.org for the most up to date listing of activities and events happening in your area. Have you visited the website lately? It is totally "remodeled" to be even more user friendly and informative.

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.