

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Adult Stem Cells Hammer Sickle Cell Anemia

Adult stem cell transplants from bone marrow and cord blood have been used successfully in the past to treat children with sickle cell anemia. In fact, many doctors consider adult stem cells the only "cure" for sickle cell disease. Now, a new study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* shows that adults can also be successfully treated for sickle cell anemia with adult stem cells.

(<http://www.drugs.com/news/bone-marrow-transplants-may-cure-sickle-cell-adults-21397.html>)

After 30 months, all of the patients are alive, and nine of the ten patients had successful grafts and are considered cured of sickle cell disease.

According to Dr. John Tisdale at the National Institutes of Health: "It's been transforming for these patients. These were the sickest of the sick patients. Some were in the hospital every other week for pain or other crises. Today, some have gone back to school and to work. One patient had a baby." This is an important development, because in conventional bone marrow transplants, high doses of chemotherapy drugs and radiation typically destroy fertility. However, the lower level of radiation used in the new method does not seem to do this.

Other recent adult stem cell successes include re-growing patients' jaw bones: (<http://www.ecmjournal.org/journal/papers/vol018/vol018a07.php>) and repairing heart damage: (<http://content.onlinejacc.org/cgi/content/abstract/54/24/2277>).

Breakthroughs in adult stem cell research, which does not require killing human embryos, are detailed in a new website, www.stemcellresearchfacts.org. This is part of a campaign to educate about, and spread awareness of, the proven and potential successes of adult stem cell therapies. Its creators are the Family Research Council and SaintMax Worldwide.

The site, which debuted in Kansas City, includes three videos telling the stories of people who have been saved or helped by adult stem cells: Amy Daniels recounts how she survived systemic scleroderma, the parents of Joseph Davis tell how their second child saved Joseph from sickle-cell anemia, and Laura Dominguez relates that thanks to adult stem cells, she will walk again after a car accident that left her paralyzed.

First 3D MRI scans of Unborn babies

A new technique to get the first 3D images of unborn babies from MR (magnetic resonance) scans has been developed by Imperial College Healthcare.

A team led by Prof Mary Rutherford, a neonatal neuroradiologist at Hammersmith Hospital, is using the images to find out how fetus' brains develop in the womb.

This has been difficult to study before as unborn babies wiggle in the mother's tummy. MR scans require a person to remain still while ordered slices are taken continuously through the body.

To solve this problem the team takes many images, in various orientations, and uses a computer program to re-order them and form a 3D image

For a more detailed explanation see: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/8368733.stm>

**Do you know someone who might be
considering abortion?
Make sure they get the facts first!**

Permissive Abortion Laws May Be Hazardous To Mothers' Health

By Samantha Singson

(NEW YORK – C-FAM) A new report from the World Economic Forum (WEF)

(<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/gendergap/report2009.pdf> pages 47-50) shows that countries with restrictive abortion laws are often the leaders in reducing maternal mortality, and those with permissive laws often lag. According to the report, the pro-life nation of Ireland has topped the global rankings once again with the best maternal health performance.

Abortion advocates have attempted to push an international "right to abortion," claiming that restrictive laws force women to seek unsafe abortion, which in turn leads to high maternal mortality. In October, the Guttmacher Institute released a report on global abortion calling on states to "expand access to legal abortion and ensure that safe, legal abortion services are available to women in need." Sharon Camp, president of the Guttmacher Institute, asserted that "in much of the developing world, abortion remains highly restricted, and unsafe abortion is common and continues to damage women's health and threaten their survival."

An examination and comparison of several countries included in the WEF survey show that legal abortion does not mean lower maternal mortality rates.

Both Ireland and Poland, favorite targets of the abortion lobby for their strong restrictions on abortion, have better maternal mortality ratios than the United States. Ireland ranks first in the survey with 1 death for every 100,000 live births. In recent years Poland has tightened its abortion law and ranks number 27 on the list with 8 deaths per 100,000. In the United States where there are virtually no restrictions on abortion, the maternal mortality ratio is 17 out of 100,000 live births.

Other regions of the world show similar trends. The African nation with the lowest maternal mortality rate is Mauritius, a country with some of the continent's most protective laws for the unborn. On the other end of the spectrum is Ethiopia, which has decriminalized abortion in recent years in response to global abortion lobby pressure. Ethiopia's maternal death rate is 48 times higher than in Mauritius. South Africa has the

continent's most liberal abortion laws and also a high maternal mortality ratio of 400 deaths per 100,000.

Chile, with constitutional protection for the unborn, outranks all other South American countries as the safest place for women to bear children. The country with the highest maternal mortality is Guyana, with a rate 30 times higher than in Chile. Guyana has allowed abortion without almost any restriction since in 1995. Ironically, one of two main justifications used for liberalizing Guyana's law was to enhance the "attainment of safe motherhood" by eliminating deaths and complications associated with unsafe abortion.

Similarly in Asia, Nepal, where there is no restriction on the procedure, has one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates. The lowest in the region is Sri Lanka, with a rate fourteen times lower than that of Nepal. According to the pro-abortion public interest law firm Center for Reproductive Rights, Sri Lanka has among the most restrictive abortion laws in the world.

Pro-lifers emphasize that the WEF report reinforces their contention that skilled birth attendants and access to emergency obstetric care should be the focus of maternal mortality reduction efforts, rather than increasing access to legal abortion.

“Advertising” for Life

I was driving through town the day before Christmas, getting that last gift, and enjoying the Christmas music on the radio. We stopped at a major intersection and I noticed the truck in front of me had a bumper sticker that said, “Guns don’t kill people, Abortion Mills do.” That got me to thinking of ways we can affirm each other and spread the message of life.... When we see pro-life messages on others’ vehicles or mail, we are encouraged. We have encountered a kindred spirit. We also encourage others with our pro-life messages.

Turn your car into a billboard with your favorite pro-life bumper sticker. We have LOTS of these in our cupboards...stop by a mall table and check out our selection, or contact our office and let us know the type of message you would like, and we will send you a bumper sticker.

Have you considered that there are many different ways to let others know you are pro-life? Get a stamp

or pro-life stickers for your correspondence and use them on your mail. Heritage House has a number of stamps and envelope stickers. (www.hh76.com) The average letter is handled by 5-10 people... what a wonderful way to get the message out.

Consider having a pro-life message printed on your checks. <http://www.prolifechecks.com/index.aspx>

T-shirts are another excellent means for getting across any point. And don't forget National Pro-life T-shirt Day coming in April.

The time involved in these activities is minimal and they are not cost prohibitive, but they can make a huge difference when it comes to education, not to mention changing hearts and minds!

Calendar of Events

January being the anniversary of the Supreme Court "Roe V Wade" decision, many events are scheduled...

Interfaith Ecumenical Prayer Service –

Sanctity of Life – Friday January 22, 2010 Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 999 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco. For further information call 415-664-3570

3rd Annual Standing Up 4Life Walk in Oakland

Focus: "The Impact Of Abortion In The Minority Community!" Friday, January 22, 2010, 12:00 noon Oakland City Hall, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, CA 94612-1932, followed by the

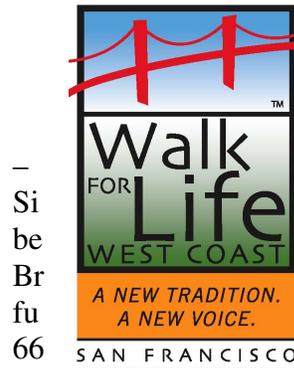
The 3rd Annual Leadership 4Life Conference

Theme: "The Impact of Abortion in the Minority Community!" Friday, January 22, 2010, 2:30 pm Chosen Vessels Christian Church, 710 Haight Ave, Alameda, CA. For further information call 510-523-6707 or email Senior Pastor Dion Evans at cvcc@alldifferent.org.

Walk For Life – West Coast

Saturday, January 23rd 2010: Start 11AM with Speakers at Justin Herman Plaza Lawn, the Embarcadero, San Francisco. Ends – Marina Green 2.5 mile walk. Join upwards of 30,000 pro-lifers for the 6th Annual Walk for Life at Justin Herman Plaza on the Embarcadero in San Francisco as we peacefully

proclaim our message that abortion hurts women and we all deserve better than abortion. For more information www.walkforlifewc.com. To volunteer or to arrange buses call (415) 586-1576 or email questions to info@walkforlifewc.com.



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9th Annual Lights for Life Candlelight Prayer Vigil Sunday January 24, 7-8PM dewalk of 2107 O'Farrell tween Divisadero and oderick, San Francisco. For rther information call 415-1-6277.

Annual California Pro-Life Council Prayer Breakfast and Rally Wednesday, January 27th, 2010 Breakfast 8-10:00 a.m. The Grand 1215 J Street, Sacramento, followed by workshops and a Rally for Life at Capitol at Noon. For further information call 916-442-8315 ext. 307 or http://www.californiaprolife.org/events/prayer_breakfast/

Spring 40 Days for Life Feb. 17-March 28, 2010 Over 2,000 babies have been saved from abortion since 40-Days for Life began in 2004. For further information, including locations for the Spring campaign see <http://www.40daysforlife.com/>

Manhattan Declaration

On Friday November 20, 2009 a group of prominent Christian clergy, ministry leaders and scholars released the **Manhattan Declaration**, which addresses the sanctity of life, traditional marriage and religious liberty. The 4,700-word declaration issues a clarion call to Christians to adhere to their convictions and informs civil authorities that the signers will not—under any circumstance—abandon their Christian consciences. Drafted by Dr. Robert George, Dr. Timothy George and Chuck Colson and signed by more than 150 Orthodox, Catholic and evangelical Christian leaders.

“The Manhattan Declaration” states that Christians, when they have lived up to the highest ideals of their faith, have defended the weak and vulnerable and worked tirelessly to protect and strengthen vital institutions of civil society, beginning with the family.

Signers are Orthodox, Catholic, and evangelical Christians who have united at this hour to reaffirm fundamental truths about justice and the common good, and to call upon our fellow citizens, believers and non-believers alike, to join us in defending them. The document states and defends three truths:

- **the sanctity of human life**
- **the dignity of marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife**
- **the rights of conscience and religious liberty.**

The document states, “Inasmuch as these truths are foundational to human dignity and the well-being of society, they are inviolable and non-negotiable. Because they are increasingly under assault from powerful forces in our culture, we are compelled today to speak out forcefully in their defense, and to commit ourselves to honoring them fully no matter what pressures are brought upon us and our institutions to abandon or compromise them. We make this commitment not as partisans of any political group but as followers of Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Lord, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

To read and sign the Historic Manhattan Declaration see <http://www.manhattandeclaration.org/> Throughout history, Christians have defended the weak and vulnerable. The Manhattan Declaration unites Christians to defend LIFE, Dignity of Marriage, Rights of Conscience, and Religious Liberty! Please sign the Declaration and have your voice be heard!

Around the Office Year-End Recap

At this turning of the year, we thank all of our generous donors, and we include a brief recap of our financial position.

The economic downturn has affected everyone and California Right to Life Ed Fund is no exception. General contributions were down 9.5% and special donations decreased 63%. This has forced us to into some serious belt tightening, even cutting critical needs and services.

We were forced to decrease the already minimal compensation to our one employee, and to stay in conformity with minimum labor laws the scheduled hours were also decreased commensurately.

We are no longer able to provide materials for an entire classroom of students for class presentations. We are only able to send a few copies for the student to display as part of a presentation. Hopefully in 2010 we can return to offering a pamphlet and/or bookmark to each student; however, without the funds we are unable to serve this vital need.

In an effort to practice responsible stewardship of your donations, we were forced to “prune” our newsletter mailing list. If we haven’t heard from you in a while, and you would still like to receive our newsletter, please let us know either by U.S. mail, or by e-mail at callife@calright2life.org. If we haven’t heard from you in a couple of years, you run the risk of becoming “inactive” and you will no longer receive the newsletter.

If you are part of the 40% who made a donation in 2009 THANKS! If you haven’t contributed in a while, consider sending a donation to allow us to once again be there with materials for entire classrooms of students for presentations.

A special thank you to all who donate hours at mall tables, writing newsletter articles, and the myriad of other activities that allows us to keep costs down.

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.

