

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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2009 Students for Life Conference

Reported by Cecelia Cody

On Saturday April 25 the California Students for Life held their annual conference, this year at UC Berkeley. The main speaker was Lila Rosa (LiveAction Films - undercover reporter on Planned Parenthood activities - Mona Lisa Project.) Lila Rose was dynamic! What a firecracker! What an asset to the prolife movement!!! She showed one of her undercover videos, and a video entitled "Here's the Blood" showing numerous examples of post-aborted fetal parts being moved around by tweezers. Lila then shared the intimidation tactics of Planned Parenthood, and how her picture is up on their clinic walls as a sort of "terrorist." For examples of Lila Rose's videos visit the Live Action website at <http://liveaction.org/>

Lila shared how moved she was by several encounters with sidewalk counselors when she was "in character" entering various Planned Parenthood clinics. She affirmed that just being there has an impact on the women entering the clinic.

The next speaker, Rev. Walter Hoye (who was recently incarcerated for his sidewalk counseling outside an abortion mill in Oakland) shared a touching message on how our First Amendment rights are being violated. Within 100 feet of the abortion mill it is considered by the Oakland Law to be "harassment" if you:

- Have a sign (Rev. Hoye's says, "Jesus loves you and your baby. Let us help.")
- Have literature to pass out.
- Have a conversation.

Rev. Hoye's speech was very moving, very thought provoking! We could feel his passion for the unborn in his words, his passion for protecting the unborn and his frustration at the political / judicial system. For more about Rev. Hoye's case see "Straight Time" <http://www.worldmag.com/articles/15341?CFID=8594006&CFTOKEN=41969930>

Dr. Linda Halderman, Senior Policy Advisor for Senator Sam Aanestad and a board certified general

surgeon specializing in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, then shared a bit about what is happening in Sacramento, including a "Pilot Project" in California wherein nurse midwives, physician assistants and nurse practitioners are being trained to do SURGICAL abortions at three Planned Parenthood clinics: Los Angeles, San Diego, and Concord CA. Approximately 700-800 abortions have been done using non-physician personnel to abort babies in three Planned Parenthood locations, with very little follow-up or oversight on the project.

This training program was authorized and public funds in the amount of \$1.3 million spent in a 3 year period, were appropriated in 2006 by one individual, Dr. David Carlisle, Director of the Office of State Wide Health Planning and Delivery (OSWPHD), without any notification or accountability to the Legislature.

The purpose of this experiment was, apparently to "(d)emonstrate the role of advanced practice clinicians in expanding early pregnancy care."

Dr. Halderman explained that the sponsors of this "surgical abortion by non-physicians" project, the University of California, San Francisco's Bixby Center for Reproductive Health. UC San Francisco, Kaiser Permanente of Northern California, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the John Merck Fund and the Education Foundation of America, have provided the actual funding.

After two days of training, and performing 40 abortion procedures under supervision of a medical doctor at the Planned Parenthood facility, these non-medical personnel are considered competent to perform this procedure without any doctor in the facility.

On a broader spectrum, among the shocking statistics that Dr. Halderman shared was the fact that Medi-Cal pays \$400 for an abortion, but only \$237 for a lumpectomy. And during the latest

budget crisis, Medi-Cal abortion funding was fast-tracked to payment, while everyone else languished awaiting Medi-Cal reimbursement. It's not too hard to figure out what the "sacred cow" of Medi-Cal is!

“Pluripotent' Stem Cell (iPS)”

More on iPS Stem Cells

*Excerpted from “Pluripotent' Stem Cell (iPS)
Research is Not the Usual 'Adult' Stem Cell
Research”*

By Dianne N. Irving, M.A., Ph.D.

An "exciting" new method of producing human "stem cells" to cure Parkinson's and many other debilitating diseases was recently announced as "breaking news" on You-Tube. (Dr. Oz to Oprah and Michael J Fox: "The stem cell debate is dead") The video proceeded to be passed around the world at the speed of light.

The new research explained by Dr. Oz is referred to as "induced pluripotent stem cell" research (iPS research). As Dr. Oz noted, an adult human cell (e.g., a patient's own skin cell) can be transformed or induced from a very differentiated state back to a relatively less differentiated state to form an "embryo-like" human cell that is "pluripotent" (capable of forming most of the cells, tissues and organs of an adult human being). These new iPS human cells could then possibly be urged to develop forward to produce more mature differentiated human cells for therapeutic purposes.

But three things are important to distinguish before iPS research is so enthusiastically embraced as an "ethical alternative to human embryonic stem cell research.”

First, iPS research is *not equivalent* to "adult stem cell research." The starting material (the human adult, or mature, body cell) may be the same, but what happens after that is very different. In the typical adult human stem cell research that has been reported for many years now, and which truly is an ethical alternative to human embryonic stem cell research, the adult human cell is not transformed or induced back to a pluripotent human "embryo-like" stem cell. Rather, these adult human stem cells are already found naturally in the human body and are simply urged to develop to a more mature state.

In iPS research, however, the highly differentiated DNA in the adult human cell that is used as the

starting material is transformed or induced (by various means) back to the state of differentiation of the DNA as found in human embryonic pluripotent "stem cells." These "embryo-like" human pluripotent "stem cells" are then urged to become more mature in order to develop human cells for therapies.

Second, there are many scientific and ethical problems with iPS research that must be resolved before such research can be considered as "an ethical alternative to human embryonic stem cell research." Perhaps Dr. Oz's use of the term "embryo-like" might provide a clue. Are these iPS cells just "embryo-like", or are they - at least sometimes - really single- or multiple-cell early human "embryos"? Or could they be human totipotent cells that have the natural capacity to revert back to new whole human embryos? That is, are all of these cells truly just pluripotent, or are some of them totipotent (and thus early human embryos, or capable of reverting to new whole human embryos)?

In the earliest developing human embryo, there is a range of both totipotent and pluripotent cells - beginning with all totipotent cells and including pluripotent cells more and more as the new human organism develops and grows bigger. By the time that the new human being reaches the blastocyst stage (5-7 days), the inner cell mass of the human blastocyst still contains a mixture of totipotent and pluripotent cells. It is more often these human embryonic cells from the inner cell mass of the human embryo that are touted as "pluripotent stem cells." But not all of them are pluripotent. Many of them are still totipotent - the proof is in naturally occurring human monozygotic twinning in vivo. About two-thirds of human twins are reproduced at the blastocyst stage. Twinning couldn't happen if there were no totipotent cells in the human embryo's inner cell mass!

The point is that, as with the usual human embryonic "stem cells," at least some of the iPS cells that are produced are most probably also totipotent and thus, are capable of reverting to new whole human embryos by means of the natural biological process of "regulation."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*For the latest information, see
www.calendarforlife.org*

Lazy Days of Summer – NOT!

Summer is a good time to stop and reflect on where we have been, and begin planning for the next "school year" calendar. Below are a few opportunities to consider....

Mall Table – The first Saturday of the month from 10AM-4PM we have an information table at Sunvalley Mall in Concord. If you would like to join us, or are interested in starting a table in your area, contact our office at 925-944-5351 or e-mail callife@calright2life.org. Experienced volunteers will be there to guide you until you feel comfortable being the lead volunteer.

October Life Chain - Is there a Life Chain in your area? Visit <http://www.lifechain.net/> for recent Life Chain locations. Consider contacting the coordinator and offering to help with this year's effort. If you would like to have a Life Chain in your own community, visit the above website for a comprehensive guide, sample letters and brochures, and a video introduction to the Life Chain concept. For further information send a request with your name, address, and telephone number to:

**Royce Dunn, National Life Chain Office
c/o Please Let Me Live, Inc.
3209 Colusa Highway
Yuba City, California 95993.**

You may also send an e-mail to Mr. Dunn at Royce@NationalLifeChain.org or call him at 530-674-5068.

Fall 40-Days-for Life - Was there a 40-Days-for-Life in your area last Spring? (see www.40daysforlife.org and click on the locations tab.) Consider contacting the coordinator and volunteering to help plan the fall campaign.

Respect Life Sunday - Does your church have a Respect Life Sunday in the fall? Now is the time to approach your pastor about ideas for how to celebrate this important issue in your church.

Additionally, it is also possible that human embryonic germ line cells could be reproduced in the process of transforming/inducing the iPS cells. These human embryonic germ line cells are also totipotent and thus could also revert back to new whole human embryos. Any human embryos that are reproduced directly or indirectly in the process of doing iPS research would be destroyed.

Third, there are quite a number of other ethical concerns involving iPS research. What about the sources of many of the materials used during iPS research? Are any living human embryos destroyed in order to make these "materials"? For example, human "materials" are usually involved in the various kinds of culture media used, in the DNA chips, and in the assays and other tests performed to insure that these cells are "pluripotent." Even proponents of this research admit this.

Interestingly, however, there are no tests or assays to determine if any of these cells are totipotent! Human embryonic and fetal "materials" are also used as "feeder cells," and as sources of genes used to infect and transform the adult cells.

Patients also need to be concerned about any serious immune rejection reactions caused by the DNA in these iPS cells being mutated or changed (even a little bit), or by any number of other chemicals and other products used during the transformation process - even if the patient's own cells were used as the starting materials.

It is time to get straight, complete and accurate answers out of proponents of iPS and other human embryonic stem cell, human cloning, and human genetic engineering research. Society's trust in their professional scientific credibility depends on it. But all we get is "fuzzy accolades," "hype," deconstructed "science" -- or silence. It's as simple as this. Everyone deeply and sincerely hopes that some research somewhere will find these desperately needed cures. But such success must not come at the expense of the willful killing and destruction of whole living innocent human beings. This is no "ethical alternative to human embryonic stem cell research". Haven't we been there before?

For full text see:

http://www.lifeissues.net/writers/irv/irv_138ips_notad_ultstemcell.htm

***Save the date: 6th annual Walk for Life
January 23, 2010!***

The Annual Walk for Life West Coast seems a long way off, but it will be here before we know it. What can you do for the Walk for Life 2010? Does your church have people needing transportation? Would you be able to help with publicity? – distributing flyers? Getting announcements in church bulletins? If you are interested in assisting in the planning, e-mail info@www.walkforlifewc.com .

We once again remind you that often events are announced after the newsletter goes to print. We try to keep our members abreast of these activities through our e-mail network. To get the latest information on pro-life activities, please provide us your e-mail address. You may send us an e-mail at callife@calright2life.org, or enclose your e-mail address with your monthly donation.

If you are receiving our e-blasts and know of a pro-lifer who doesn't have access to e-mail, please share this information with them.

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.