

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Established 1981

California's Prop 71 Failure

Five years ago the people of California approved a \$3 BILLION with a "B" bond measure to be used for budget-busting **embryonic stem cell research**. To date there have been **NO CURES, NO THERAPIES** and little progress. In an attempt to rescue Prop 71, supporters are embracing research they once opposed in an attempt to snatch success from the jaws of failure and take credit for discoveries and advances achieved by research Prop. 71 supporters once cavalierly dismissed.

California's Proposition 71 was intended to create a \$3 billion West Coast counterpart to the National Institutes of Health, empowered to go where the NIH could not — either because of federal policy or funding restraints on biomedical research centered on human embryonic stem cells.

Supporters of the "California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative" held out hopes of imminent medical miracles that were being held up only by President Bush's policy of not allowing federal funding of embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) beyond existing stem cell lines and which involved the destruction of embryos created for that purpose.

Five years later, ESCR has failed to deliver and backers of Prop 71 are admitting failure. The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), the state agency created to "restore science to its rightful place," is diverting funds from ESCR to research that has produced actual therapies and treatments: **adult stem cell research**, which not only has **TREATED REAL PEOPLE with REAL RESULTS**; it also does not come with the moral baggage ESCR does.

(For the latest updates on Adult Stem Cell Research see: <http://www.stemcellresearch.org/>)

Over the years when funding was needed, the phrase "embryonic stem cells" was used. When actual progress was discussed, the word "embryonic" was dropped because ESCR never got out of the lab.

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Prop 71 had a 10-year mandate and by 2008, as miracle cures looked increasingly unlikely, a director was hired for the agency with a track record of bringing discoveries from the lab to the clinic. "If we went 10 years and had no clinical treatments, it would be a failure," says the institute's director, Alan Trounson, a stem cell pioneer from Australia. "We need to demonstrate that we are starting a whole new medical revolution." The institute is attempting to do this by funding adult stem cell research. Nearly \$230 million was handed out this past October to 14 research teams. Notably, only four of those projects involve embryonic stem cells.

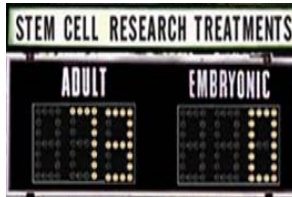
Among the recipients, the Los Angeles Times reports, is a group from UCLA and Children's Hospital in Los Angeles that hopes to cure patients with sickle cell disease by genetically

modifying their own blood-forming stem cells to produce healthy red blood cells.

Researchers at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center will use their grant to research injecting heart-attack patients with concentrated amounts of their own cardiac stem cells that naturally repair heart tissue.

Dr. Bernadine Healy, director of the National Institutes of Health under Bush 41, wrote in her U.S. News & World Report column recently, "Embryonic stem cells, once thought to hold the cure for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes, are obsolete." Even worse, they can be dangerous. They are difficult to control, to coax into the specific type of tissue desired. Unlike adult stem cells taken from a patient's own body, ES cells require the heavy use of immunosuppressive drugs. Their use can lead to a form of tumor called a teratoma.

Real promise is held in what are called induced pluripotent stem cells. In 2006, researchers led by Dr. Shinya Yamanaka of Japan's Kyoto University were first able to "reprogram" human skin cells to behave like embryonic stem cells. They can do everything stem cells from destroyed embryos can do. The National Institutes of Health has said that this type of stem cell offers the prospect of having a renewable source of replacement cells and tissues to treat diseases



like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, spinal cord injury, stroke, burns, heart disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, to name a few.

ESCR researchers have politicized science and stood in the way of real progress. We are pleased to see California researchers beginning to put science in its rightful place.

For detailed listing of the 73 cures see

<http://www.stemcellresearch.org/facts/treatments.htm>

Adult stem cell therapy improves Ejection Fraction in patient with severe heart disease

Les Nachman had been battling severe heart disease for more than 10 years by the time he met Dr. Zannos Grekos, a Florida-based pioneer in the field of adult stem cell therapy which utilizes the patient's own stem cells to treat heart disease and other disorders. Six months following the procedure, his Ejection Fraction – the rate at which the heart is able to expel blood - has improved a remarkable 18 percentage points.

Nachman's disease had gotten progressively worse over the 10 years since his initial diagnosis. His Ejection Fraction (EF) was down to 23 percent. A normal EF is above 50 percent; Nachman's 23 percent was in the severe dysfunction range.

Nachman spent years tirelessly pursuing all kinds of remedies for his weakening condition, from traditional medicine to various kinds of alternative treatment. A year ago, his desperate search for improved health led him to Orlando to a regenerative medicine conference.

While there, he happened to hear an inspiring presentation by Dr. Grekos, a world leader in the use of a patient's own stem cells to treat a variety of conditions and diseases.

In his presentation about Regenocyte's procedure, Dr. Grekos described how blood is extracted from the patient and sent on to a laboratory in Israel, where the patient's stem cells are removed.

"The lab in Israel provides a key step in the Regenocyte process," Dr. Grekos explained. "The lab

extracts the stem cells from the blood and genetically engineers them into millions of adult stem cells while 'educating' them to assist the exact organ that needs treatment."

About a week after the blood arrives in Israel, the adult stem cells are shipped to a hospital in the Dominican Republic. By this time, the patient also has traveled to the Dominican Republic and has been admitted to the same hospital.

Nachman became a patient of Dr. Grekos, who decided to attempt a stem-cell assisted repair of Nachman's cardiac tissue. In this ground-breaking treatment, Dr. Grekos inserted a catheter into the left ventricle of Nachman's heart. Over the next 20 minutes, about 30 separate injections of adult stem cells were introduced into a seriously damaged part of Nachman's heart. The process of tissue repair began almost immediately.

Nachman remained in the hospital overnight for observation, and was discharged the next day. Three months later, his Ejection Fraction was measured again, and doctors found that it had risen from 23 percent to 38 percent – not yet "normal," but considerably better than the life-threatening levels recorded before the treatment.

At his recent six month Multi Gated Acquisition (MUGA) scan, Nachman's Ejection Fraction registered at an incredible 41 percent.

"A patient's own stem cells can do remarkable things when it comes to the treatment of serious heart, vascular and other diseases," Dr. Grekos said. "This treatment is not just giving patients hope, it is giving them back their lives."

Nachman feels much better, and says he expects his Ejection Fraction to rise even more when he is tested again in a few months.

"I'm thinking about dancing again and doing things I haven't done," Nachman said. "I stay in the office instead of leaving to take a nap. My life has taken on a whole new meaning, and I have a good feeling about this lasting."

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/news/20100203/Adult-stem-cell-therapy-improves-Ejection-Fraction-in-patient-with-severe-heart-disease.aspx>

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“Marriage Insurance ???”

Today, you can insure just about anything that you consider of appropriate value. What about your marriage? Sounds impossible in our society where 50% of all marriages end in divorce and the rate for second marriages is even worse at a staggering 75%.

Did you know that the divorce rate for couples that practice Natural Family Planning (NFP) is less than 2%? That is about as close to Marriage Insurance as you can achieve!

Natural Family Planning (NFP) is a way to cooperate with the natural God-given pattern of fertility and infertility of our bodies to achieve or postpone pregnancy. NFP uses natural signs of fertility in the woman's body to indicate to a couple whether sexual intercourse will likely result in a pregnancy. Couples who have a serious reason to postpone pregnancy can abstain from intercourse during the fertile phase of a woman's cycle and have sexual intercourse only when she is infertile, thus avoiding a pregnancy. NFP, unlike contraception, does not purposely cut off the possibility of conception through the use of artificial means. Rather, NFP allows a couple to choose when to engage in sexual intercourse and when to abstain using their knowledge of whether that act of intercourse will likely result in pregnancy.

Many people contend that NFP is morally equivalent to contraception since both methods result in not getting pregnant. Abstaining from sexual intercourse is never morally equivalent to interrupting conception. As human beings, we can choose freely whether to engage in sexual intercourse or not. A couple may abstain from intercourse for a number of reasons--sickness, birth of a child, travel, etc. Choosing to abstain to avoid pregnancy is a morally justifiable act. Deliberately interrupting the act of intercourse or the conception or development of a child through contraception is both morally evil and substantially different from NFP.

For further information on Natural Family Planning, visit the following websites:

One More Soul <http://onemoresoul.com/>
Couple to Couple League <http://www.ccli.org/>
Billings Ovulation Method <http://www.boma-usa.org/>
Pope Paul VI Institute <http://www.popepaulvi.com/>
The Gift Foundation <http://www.giftfoundation.org/>
(Our library includes several copies of their DVD)

VSEL: very small stem cells show promise

Researchers at the University of Louisville presented their findings on "*very small embryonic-like (VSEL) stem cells*" at the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), held from 5 to 8 December 2009 in New Orleans.

VSEL stem cells are "*a population of heterogeneous stem cells found in the bone marrow that have properties similar to those of embryonic stem cells*" but "*without the potential negative effects*" associated with ES cells.

The study led by Marius Ratajczak, a researcher at the Stem Cell Institute of the James Graham Cancer Center at the University of Louisville (Kentucky), was carried out in partnership with NeoStem, a New York-based biotechnology company. NeoStem holds the exclusive worldwide license to sell VSEL technology, acquired from the University of Louisville.

VSEL cells were discovered in human cord blood. VSEL technology enables "*very small embryonic-like stem cells to be identified and isolated from peripheral blood*". These cells can be stimulated to grow in the peripheral blood using a growth factor then collected through aphaeresis, a procedure used in blood donation. According to the study authors, this technique could "*enable pluripotent stem cells to be obtained.*" NeoStem "*has developed procedures for harvesting and freezing VSEL stem cells from donors for future medical use.*" Plans to use VSEL stem cells for clinical research are underway in the United States as well as in other countries

http://www.genethique.org/En/press/press/2010/january/25_29.html

**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)**



Spring 40 Days for Life

Began Feb. 17 and will continue through 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 see <http://www.40daysforlife.com/>

Often events are announced after the newsletter goes to print. For the latest updates and information on events in your area, visit www.calendarforlife.org.

Also make sure we have your current e-mail address, as we try and keep our e-mail members informed of last minute events.

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.