

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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Adult Stem Cells Used in Treating Wounded Soldiers From Iraq, and Afghanistan

Washington, DC -- Pro-life advocates have long supported the use of adult stem cells over embryonic stem cell research because no human life is destroyed in obtaining the cells. Now, new reports show wounded soldiers returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan are being helped by the ethical adult stem cells. Showing how far adult stem cells have come in a very short time, our wounded soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan are being treated with their own stem cells to help treat wounds involving bones.

According to ABC News, the Bush administration has spent \$85 million to fund the Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine. Dr. Thomas Einhorn, the chairman of orthopedic surgery at the Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center, has used adult stem cells to repair a patient's hip after conventional surgeries failed.

Noted bioethics watchdog Wesley Smith says he's not surprised by the news. "Illustrating how the hype overcame reality, the story's author felt the need to say that the stem cells did not come from embryos," he said. But, as pro-life advocates know, "no human applications have yet come from human embryonic stem cells." Smith added: "It will not take much time for this procedure to become available in the civilian sector. The good news just keeps coming."



Cardinal Alfonso Lopez-Trujillo

Cardinal Alfonso Lopez-Trujillo, the president of the Pontifical Council for the Family and a respected pro-life leader who was viewed as second only to Pope Benedict in leading the Catholic Church's pro-life efforts passed away Saturday April 19, 2007.

Father Frank Pavone said Cardinal Lopez-Trujillo was one of the Church's strongest advocates for the worth and dignity of human life.

"He knew and often said that the Church's pro-life stance was not just a teaching, but a battle, and he willingly undertook the sacrifices of that battle in his own life," Father Pavone said.

Cardinal Lopez-Trujillo, of Colombia, died at the Pius XI private medical care facility. He was 72 at the time. He had been in the hospital for several weeks battling grave health issues.

Lopez Trujillo led efforts in Mexico in 2007 to stop the nation's capital city from legalizing abortion. The Mexico City legislative assembly eventually legalized abortion and at least one woman has already died in addition to more than 6,000 unborn children.

"In every meeting I had with the Cardinal, he was thinking of new ways to advance the Culture of Life," Pavone added.

"He felt very keenly the lack of sufficient time to develop and implement the ideas that flowed from his enthusiasm and creativity. Now's the time for all of us to pick up where he left off," Pavone concluded.

“Is This What You Mean?”

Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries, two international ministries established to fully activate the Body of Christ to defend the sanctity of life against abortion and euthanasia, have recently announced a special project called "Is This What You Mean?" It aims to educate the public about the nature of abortion and to challenge public officials and candidates who support the legality of abortion to admit what it is. It is a project that pro-life people everywhere can participate in.

The pro-life community has been frustrated for a long time with "public servants" who mask the violence of abortion with the smooth language of "choice," and refuse to protect the victims. These politicians are found in both major political parties; some hold public office and others seek it. These abortion-supporting politicians get away with what they are doing in large measure because they refuse to talk about what the "choice" actually is. They try to avoid the word "abortion" altogether; but even when they use it, the word has

lost practically all its meaning. Voters hear the word but are left with little or no awareness of the gruesome horror it represents.

This election season, it's time for that to change. It's time that we who know what abortion is draw a line in the sand and give candidates and office-holders alike this challenge: If you're going to take a position on abortion, then you're going to have to come clean about what it is. We are no longer going to let you obscure or trivialize the issue. Whether people agree with you or not, you owe it to them to be honest about what you're talking about.

Therefore we issue this simple call to honesty: We will describe abortion to you, and you tell us if that's what you're talking about. That's it, pure and simple. This is not a debate, nor a threat. It's a call to clarity, a demand for honesty. That is not partisan, nor is it unreasonable; it is not fanatical or inappropriate in any way. Nor is this about religion or morality.

We just want to make sure that we're hearing you. When you say "abortion," we just want to make sure we're both talking about the same thing.

A full description of the project is at www.priestsforlife.org/action/abortion-procedure-revealed.htm.

This effort includes two videos on You Tube describing and demonstrating the two most common abortion techniques, using the actual instruments of abortion and the words found in medical textbooks and court testimony. The Dilation and Evacuation procedure can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=us_y9GP_-DA

And the Suction and Curettage procedure at www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBOAPleF1t0
(No graphic images are shown in either of these videos.)

Then simply ask "pro-choice" politicians (whether they are candidates or already in public office) if this is what they mean when they say "abortion." Yes or no. Ask it publicly. Ask it repeatedly. Ask it at town meetings, on blogs, in editorials. Those whose support they are seeking deserve to know.

First Trimester Suction Abortion

Below are some additional quotes from abortion textbooks and court testimony about legal abortion activity to assist you in your discussions with others.

"The physician will usually first notice a quantity of amniotic fluid, followed by placenta and fetal parts, which may be more or less identifiable." (From the medical textbook *Abortion Practice* -- Dr. Warren Hern, p.114, in section on First Trimester Abortion).

"When we do a suction curettage abortion, you know, roughly one of three things is going to happen during the abortion. One would be that the catheter as it approaches the fetus, you know, tears it and kills it at that instant inside the uterus. The second would be that the fetus is small

enough and the catheter is large enough that the fetus passes through the catheter and either dies in transit as it's passing through the catheter or dies in the suction bottle after it's actually all the way out." (Sworn testimony given in US District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin (Madison, WI, May 27, 1999, Case No. 98-C-0305-S), by Dr. Martin Haskell, an abortionist. He describes legal activity.)

Question: Can the heart of a fetus or embryo still be beating during a suction curettage abortion as the fetus or embryo comes down the cannula?

Answer: For a few seconds to a minute, yes.

(Sworn testimony given in US District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin (Madison, WI, May 27, 1999, Case No. 98-C-0305-S), by Dr. Harlan Raymond Giles, an abortionist. He describes legal activity.)

Second Trimester D&E Abortion

"The procedure changes significantly at 21 weeks because the fetal tissues become much more cohesive and difficult to dismember. This problem is accentuated by the fact that the fetal pelvis may be as much as 5cm in width. The calvaria [head] is no longer the principal problem; it can be collapsed. Other structures, such as the pelvis, present more difficulty...A long curved Mayo scissors may be necessary to decapitate and dismember the fetus..." (From the medical textbook Abortion Practice -- Dr. Warren Hern, p.154)

"The doctor grips a fetal part with the forceps and pulls it back through the cervix and vagina, continuing to pull even after meeting resistance from the cervix. The friction causes the fetus to tear apart. For example, a leg might be ripped off the fetus as it is pulled through the cervix and out of the woman. The process of evacuating the fetus piece by piece continues until it has been completely removed." (US Supreme Court, Gonzales vs. Carhart, April 18, 2007, describing the D&E procedure).

"Let's just say for instance we took a different view, a different tact and we left the leg in the uterus just to dismember it. Well, we'd probably have to dismember it at several different levels because we don't have firm control over it, so we would attack the lower part of the lower extremity first, remove, you know, possibly a foot, then the lower leg at the knee and then finally we get to the hip."

"And typically when the abortion procedure is started we typically know that the fetus is still alive because either we can feel it move as we're making our initial grasps or if we're using some ultrasound visualization when we actually see a heartbeat as we're starting the procedure. It's not unusual at the start of D&E procedures that a limb is acquired first and that that limb is brought through the cervix and even out of the vagina prior to disarticulation and prior to anything having been done that would have caused the fetal demise up to that point."

"When you're doing a dismemberment D&E, usually the last part to be removed is the skull itself and it's floating free inside the uterine cavity...So it's rather like a ping-pong ball floating around and the surgeon is using his forcep to reach up to try to grasp something that's freely floating around and is quite large relative to the forcep we're using. So typically there's several misdirections, misattempts to grasp. Finally at some point either the instruments are managed to be place around the skull or a nip is made out of some area of the skull that allows it to start to decompress. And then once that happens typically the skull is brought out in fragments rather than as a unified piece..." (Sworn testimony given in US District Court for the Western District

of Wisconsin (Madison, WI, May 27, 1999, Case No. 98-C-0305-S), by Dr. Martin Haskell, an abortionist. He describes legal activity.)

"In the dismemberment D&E it is necessary to insert our forceps...and then crush the head." Dr. Carolyn Westhoff National Abortion Federation v. Ashcroft, April 2004, US District Court, Southern District of New York).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(For the latest information, see www.calendarforlife.org)

Humanae Vitae: Cornerstone of a Culture of Life August 9th, St. Mary's College Moraga

A Conference Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Humanae Vitae

The papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae* was published on July 25 1968, provoking a dramatic response. Today, many Catholics know of the encyclical's proscription against artificial contraception; very few are properly acquainted with Paul VI's prophetic teaching, either in its necessity for any consistent defense of life or its positive celebration of married sexuality as elaborated in John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. Join the St. Anthony of Padua Institute and the Diocese of Oakland for a conference that will present an explanation and defense of the encyclical, and address primacy of conscience, the *Theology of the Body*, "reproductive" technologies and women's health, chastity, and coercive population control. The conference is scheduled for August 9th, at St. Mary's College in Moraga. Confirmed speakers include the Most Reverend Raymond L. Burke - Archbishop of St. Louis, Dr. Janet Smith, PhD, Fr. Brian Mullady, OP, and Dr. Mary Davenport, MD.

There will also be a pre-conference banquet on August 8th, at which Ralph McInerny, PhD, will speak.

For registration or for more information, please go to www.cornerstoneconference.org.