

# **CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND**

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## **Dying Patient Saved With His Own**

**November 2009**

### **Stem Cells and Mechanical Heart**

By LYND SAY MOSS

A DYING heart patient has been saved after he was given an artificial heart and injected with his own stem cells, a British surgeon said yesterday. The procedure – believed to be a world first – used stem cells in attempts to rebuild the damaged muscle in the heart.

Experts welcomed the development, but said more research was necessary before it could be more widely used.

Professor Stephen Westaby, based at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital, led the team that operated on Ioannis Manolopoulos in Thessaloniki, Greece, to fit him with the mechanical pump.

Mechanical hearts – also known as left ventricular assist devices (LVADs) – are currently used temporarily to support the failing hearts of people waiting for a transplant.

Currently, the devices are used on only a handful of patients in the UK each year.

Mr Westaby said that the use of the patient's own cells, extracted from his bone marrow, represented the first time the two treatments had ever been combined.

Mr Manolopoulos, who is recovering after the operation two weeks ago, said: "If things go well, I must go to church and pray because I feel very lucky to get this device and have the chance of a normal life."

He had been in hospital for four months after at least two heart attacks and other treatments had failed to improve his condition.

The mechanical device diverts blood away from the damaged pumping chamber to allow his heart to repair itself. In many patients, the muscle heals so well that the pump can be removed later.

Professor Christos Papakonstantinou, heart surgeon at the Ahepa University Hospital in Thessaloniki, said: "We hope the combination of stem cells and pumps

will enable patients to enjoy life for many years."

Mr Westaby said that the NHS currently only funds a handful of operations every year to give pumps to transplant patients who are waiting for a donor heart.

He said: "I am very frustrated that all the work that I have done back home in the UK has to be translated into patient care in other countries.

"We have helped to develop implantation programmes in France, Greece and Japan. It's time we did it in the UK.

"The economics in the health service are the problem. So many patients could benefit that the costs would be substantial."

Professor Peter Weissberg, medical director at the British Heart Foundation, said that before any procedure could be offered on the NHS, there had to be good evidence to prove it was safe, effective and affordable.

"The stem cell aspect of the treatment carried out in Greece is not based on evidence," he said. "Studies are under way to assess how and when stem cells may be used for heart repair, but there's still a long way to go. We urgently need a robust and controlled trial of permanent treatment with 'mechanical hearts' compared to conventional therapies for patients with severe heart failure."

A spokesman for the Scottish Stem Cell Network said: "This represents exciting progress. It identifies a role for stem cells by taking them into the clinic in a controlled manner. This latest procedure is a positive one as we are trying to move forward to the clinical phases where stem cells can be put safely into patients."

The spokesman said the operation was similar to a procedure carried out last year involving a transplant of a windpipe made with a female patient's stem cells extracted from her bone marrow.

<http://news.scotsman.com/uk/Dying-patient-saved-with-his.5678572.jp>

# Personhood initiatives proliferate

On Monday September 28, 2009 California joined the efforts to recognize human rights and personhood for all human beings from the biological beginning of development.

Several of California's most outspoken pro-life advocates including, Lila Rose, Pastor Walter Hoye, and "Bella" movie producers Jason Jones and Leo Severino, as well as Judie Brown, President of American Life League held a press conference in Sacramento and then submitted the California Human Rights Amendment to Attorney General Jerry Brown. This will be an effort to add the Human Rights Amendment as a California ballot initiative in 2010. If passed, the amendment would "recognize[ ] the inherent human rights, dignity and worth of all human beings from the beginning of their biological [development](#)."

The California Human Rights Amendment reads:

Article 1, Section 7

*(c) The term "person" applies to all living human organisms from the beginning of their biological development as human organisms -- regardless of the means by which they were procreated, method of reproduction, age, race, sex, gender, physical well-being, function, or condition of physical or mental dependency and/or disability.*

"The preborn, while demonstrably alive and demonstrably human, are not protected 'persons' under our state constitution," said Lila Rose, the 21-year-old student pro-life activist, president of Live Action and cosponsor of the amendment. "Our laws must protect each person's basic human right to life, from the beginning of his or her life until the end."

The effort is backed by the California Civil Rights Foundation, a coalition of pro-lifers including Rose and sponsor Walter Hoye, the pastor arrested and imprisoned in 2008 for standing in silent witness outside an abortion mill.

"The California Human Rights Amendment recognizes that valuing human life is fundamental to life itself," Hoye said at the press conference, "and is the cornerstone of peace and prosperity for any society."

The activists stressed that personhood fulfills the dream of the civil rights movement.

"The injustice of denying the personhood of whole classes of human beings is an injustice that cannot go unchallenged," Brown said. "Now is the time for justice. Nothing less is acceptable in a republic based on the principle of equal justice for one and all."

California joins personhood movements in Missouri, Florida, Montana and Colorado. California state law requires a petition be circulated and signed by a number of people equal to at least 8 percent of votes cast for governor during the last state election.

August 24 the Colorado Title Board approved language for a personhood ballot initiative in 2010.

And September 2 the Montana attorney general approved language for a personhood ballot initiative there in 2010.

September 11 language has been submitted to the Florida secretary of state for a personhood ballot initiative there in 2010.

September 17 pro-lifers submitted language to the Missouri secretary of state for a personhood ballot initiative there in 2010.

Mississippi pro-lifers meanwhile did not get enough petition signatures to get their personhood initiative on the 2010 ballot but are well positioned for 2011.

Pro-lifers in Oregon had hoped to get a personhood initiative on their 2010 ballot, but an antagonistic attorney general may have succeeded in running out the clock for this round. Stay tuned for 2011.

There are also several legislative personhood efforts in the pipeline:

The Los Angeles Times on September 28 reported that while personhood measures failed in Montana and North Dakota legislatures earlier this year, "the close votes alarmed supporters of legal abortion."

Come next January pro-abortion advocates will have a six-alarm fire to quench, when pro-life legislators in Alaska, Arkansas, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana and Texas have all signaled their intent to introduce personhood statutes.

Another facet of the “personhood” effort is the educational component that brings to light how many birth control methods work. The L.A. Times quoted Katherine Spillar, executive vice president of the Feminist Majority Foundation. *"It's so extreme it could literally outlaw IUDs and birth control pills."*

And Amanda Marcotte on RH Reality Check:

*"If they pass, that means that anti-choicers not only have a platform to issue challenges to abortion, but also that they have a chance to go after other anti-choice goals, namely pushing for bans on reliable, female-controlled contraception like the birth control pill and the IUD."*

In other words, hormonal birth control pills and the IUD may become contraband if laws or constitutional amendments are enacted that protect persons from the "beginning of biological development," since both may kill currently unclassified humans.

The other side has gone to great lengths to hide this fact. First, it changed an important definition of conception from “fertilization” to “implantation” back in the 1970s. It's amazing what frightened people will admit. From the Feminists for Choice blog:

*"But consider this – the medical community currently defines pregnancy as occurring at the time of implantation. A fertilized egg must actually be in the uterus in order for a woman to be pregnant. Drugs that prevent implantation, such as emergency contraception (aka "Plan B") could be deemed illegal if the definition of pregnancy is defined from the moment of conception."*

The other side also obscures terminology. For instance, makers of the popular birth control pill Ortho Tri-Cyclen ambiguously state on a well-hidden web page it can "reduce the likelihood of implantation." Manufacturers commonly use this verbiage to explain The Pill's pharmacology.

In other words, it may stop a 5- to 9-day-old embryo from implanting in the uterus. In other words, it may cause early term abortions.

This educational process may also make those proliferators who avoid discussing contraception uncomfortable.... as it should.

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

## Susan G. Komen Foundation still funds Planned Parenthood

We are hearing a lot these days about Breast Cancer awareness, and the Susan G. Komen Foundation is frequently in the forefront of fundraising efforts.

Pro-life citizens who are interested in fighting this deadly disease should be aware that Susan G. Komen for the Cure has a policy of explicitly allowing its state affiliates to give monetary grants to abortion-providing facilities. For a letter from Komen for the Cure, defending this practice see:

<http://ww5.komen.org/uploadedFiles/Content/Binaries/PlannedParenthoodStatement2009.pdf>

Not all state affiliates give grants to Planned Parenthood using the 75 percent of the funds that they raise in a state. However, each state affiliate must forward at least 25 percent of funds raised in their state to the Komen National office. These funds are under the discretion of a board that refuses to disassociate itself from Planned Parenthood as shown by the facts below:

- Planned Parenthood is the number one provider of abortions in the United States. During its 2005-2006 fiscal year, the nonprofit Planned Parenthood Federation of America performed a record 264,943 abortions according to its annual report.
- At least 13 Susan G. Komen for the Cure affiliates have awarded at least 55 grants to Planned Parenthood affiliates during the years 2000 through 2005. These grants are reported on the Susan G. Komen Web site by entering "Planned Parenthood" on Komen's searchable grant page.
- Komen claims that money raised by affiliates who give monetary grants to Planned Parenthood is for breast services only. However, Planned Parenthood documents in its 2005-2006 annual report that 9,900 more abortions were performed and 81,500

fewer breast exams were provided in 2005 than in 2004.

[Lest we forget, the “Abortion-Breast Cancer” (ABC) Link deniers, failing to fully inform women a significant risk for breast cancer is attached to elective abortion and use of the known class I carcinogens loaded in abortifacients known as so-called oral "contraceptives"].

#### **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.

