

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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“I’m Pregnant, and I Want an Abortion”

How would you react if a friend approached you and said “I’m pregnant and I want an abortion?” What would you say? What would you do?

Obviously if you are reading this newsletter, you don’t want your friend to go ahead with her plan to have an abortion. However, noble desire isn’t going to convince her to carry the pregnancy to birth and thus save the life of her pre-born child. How do you actually achieve the mind-changing goal of convincing your friend to have the baby?

“Seek to understand, then to be understood”

Stephen Covey, author of many management technique books begins with “Seek to understand, then to be understood,” and this is excellent counsel for trying to protect the well-being of your friend as well as her pre-born child.

A woman facing an unplanned pregnancy may feel any number of emotions, and anything you say or do will be seen through the filter of what she is feeling. Rather than starting with fetal development facts or explaining abortion methods, grab a box of Kleenex and ask probing questions that give her a chance to express herself. And, most importantly, LISTEN to her concerns; she not only needs to be heard, but she also needs to feel heard. Affirmations of her emotions: “*There is no denying this is a really difficult situation,*” as an example, or “*If I’m hearing you correctly, it sounds like right now the situation seems overwhelming, and I can imagine that would be difficult to figure out.*” You are acknowledging that her feelings are consistent with her situation.

Follow up with questions that give her a chance to express what she is most concerned about. For example, ask “*Why are you considering abortion?*” Her response will likely revolve around concerns about

money, school, lack of support by boyfriend or family, feelings of inadequacy, or even that she is being pressured to have an abortion, perhaps even a poor prenatal diagnosis. Questioning is not only important both to identify her motivations to seek an abortion, and also to help her explore her “gut feelings” about abortion itself.

Perhaps consider “reframing” her situation. As an example, if she is unmarried and pregnant, ask her to consider being happily married and pregnant with a child she had planned. Would she then ever consider abortion? After she responds, ask her why not abortion in that case, and then try and align this pregnancy with a “wanted pregnancy.” Through these questions you may draw out any feelings of revulsion she has toward abortion – if she says she wouldn’t abort a planned pregnancy, you can then explore the reality that this is a child, and whether the difficulty of her present situation changes the personhood of the child.

*Short term gain can bring
about long term pain,
whereas short term pain
can bring long term gain.*

Friendly Supporter

Once she has shared her reasons for wanting an abortion, address her concern(s). Would a pregnancy center be able to help her overcome these hurdles? Does she need someone to go with her to tell

her parents? Would it help for her to talk to someone who faced a similar situation and “chose life” for her baby?

It can be terrifying to be alone in a moment of crisis; there is something comforting about sharing the experience with a friend... Be that friend! A true friend will stand with her throughout the pregnancy. Offer to be with her when she has the difficult conversation with her parents; go with her to the pregnancy center or doctor appointment. Time is critical, so if it means you have to adjust your life, perhaps miss a day of school or work to accompany her, do it. There is a life on the line. Remember the Good Samaritan! He went out of his way to help the man in distress; you too need to be a Good Samaritan.

Provide Information

Someone can communicate truth without love; however it is impossible to communicate love without truth. Loving your friend means sharing the truth about the abortion she is considering. Continue to be sensitive and ask questions as much as possible, all in an effort to impart several hard truths, including

- The personhood of the pre-born baby, including the development of the baby. As an example: share that there is a heartbeat at about three weeks, and brain waves have been detected at six weeks. (Contact this office for a business card recap of fetal development facts and a 10 week fetal model.)
- The inhumane nature of abortion – including explanations of the various methods (once again we can provide you a pamphlet describing the various methods of abortion.)
- How “Abortion Hurts Women” – Ask your friend if she has heard about the complications and risks of abortion, including the abortion breast cancer link and other statistics of the complications of abortion (contact our office for resource material.)

Helping her bond with her preborn baby is crucial; giving her a preborn model to hold helps her visualize her baby. Encourage her to give a nickname to her child. Both these ideas give “personhood” to the preborn child. Always refer to the child as “child,” or “baby,” or even “him or her,” but never “it.”

Be gentle, LISTEN and when sharing this information explain that you care for her and that you want her to be informed of all the facts surrounding abortion.

Finally, Be Unwavering

Being alone in moments of crisis can be terrifying. This is true not only regarding the pregnancy, but also the moment of abortion. If all your efforts seem to have failed, and she decides to have the abortion, do NOT assist her in any way: do not go with her, do not drop her off, do not pick her up, and do not facilitate her decision in any way. Knowing she will not have a friend to journey with her just might be enough to convince her not to have the abortion.

Friends don't drive friends to abortion clinics. If your friend were going to go beat up her younger sibling, and you failed to convince her not to do it, would you

participate in the child beating, even if only to “be there to support her?” As one of the bumper stickers we distribute says, “Abortion is the ultimate child abuse.”

Your integrity through your unwavering position and consistent action could be a factor in convincing your friend not to have the abortion – actions often speak louder than words.

Hopefully it won't come to that. When you seek to understand and communicate truth in love, you can go far in convincing your friend to make the life-affirming choice.

Stem Cells Help Repair Traumatic Brain Injury

Source: [Univ. of South Florida](#)

University of South Florida researchers have suggested a new view of how stem cells may help repair the brain following trauma. In a series of preclinical experiments, they report that transplanted cells appear to build a “biobridge” that links an uninjured brain site

where new neural stem cells are born with the damaged region of the brain.

Their findings were recently reported online in the peer-reviewed journal *PLOS ONE*. (link at end of this article)

“The transplanted stem cells serve as migratory cues for the brain's own

neurogenic cells, guiding the exodus of these newly formed host cells from their neurogenic niche towards the injured brain tissue,” said principal investigator Cesar Borlongan, PhD, professor and director of the USF Center for Aging and Brain Repair.

Based in part on the data reported by the USF researchers in this preclinical study, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved a limited clinical trial to transplant SanBio Inc's SB632 cells (an adult stem cell therapy) in patients with traumatic brain injury.

Stem cells are undifferentiated, or blank, cells with the potential to give rise to many different cell types that carry out different functions. While the stem cells in adult bone marrow or umbilical cord blood tend to develop into the cells that make up the organ system from which they originated, these multipotent stem

***Friends don't
drive friends to
abortion clinics!***

cells can be manipulated to take on the characteristics of neural cells.

To date, there have been two widely-held views on how stem cells may work to provide potential treatments for brain damage caused by injury or neurodegenerative disorders. One school of thought is that stem cells implanted into the brain directly replace dead or dying cells. The other, more recent view is that transplanted stem cells secrete growth factors that indirectly rescue the injured tissue.

The USF study presents evidence for a third concept of stem-cell mediated brain repair.

The researchers randomly assigned rats with traumatic brain injury and confirmed neurological impairment to one of two groups. One group received transplants of bone marrow-derived stem cells (SB632 cells) into the region of the brain affected by traumatic injury. The other (control group) received a sham procedure in which solution alone was infused into the brain with no implantation of stem cells.

At one and three months post-TBI, the rats receiving stem cell transplants showed significantly better motor and neurological function and reduced brain tissue damage compared to rats receiving no stem cells. These robust improvements were observed even though survival of the transplanted cells was modest and diminished over time.

The researchers then conducted a series of experiments to examine the host brain tissue.

At three months post-traumatic brain injury, the brains of transplanted rats showed massive cell proliferation and differentiation of stem cells into neuron-like cells in the area of injury, the researchers found. This was accompanied by a solid stream of stem cells migrating from the brain's uninjured subventricular zone—a region where many new stem cells are formed—to the brain's site of injury.

In contrast, the rats receiving solution alone showed limited proliferation and neural-commitment of stem cells, with only scattered migration to the site of brain injury and virtually no expression of newly formed cells in the subventricular zone. Without the addition of transplanted stem cells, the brain's self-repair process appeared insufficient to mount a defense against the cascade of traumatic brain injury-induced cell death.

The researchers conclude that the transplanted stem cells create a neurovascular matrix that bridges the long-distance gap between the region in the brain where host neural stem cells arise and the site of injury. This pathway, or “biobridge,” ferries the newly emerging host cells to the specific place in the brain in need of repair, helping promote functional recovery from traumatic brain injury.

Stem Cell Recruitment of Newly Formed Host Cells via a Successful Seduction? Filling the Gap between Neurogenic Niche and Injured Brain Site for full article:

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0074857>

Do you know someone who might be considering abortion?

Make sure they get the facts first!

A LIFE depends on it...

1-800-712-HELP (4357)

Website: <http://www.optionline.org/>

Around the Office

by Cecelia Cody, Administrative Director

Furloughed! October is usually Combined Federal Campaign Charity Drive; however, the employees we would address were “furloughed.” We hope to reschedule in November. We are always very well received on these excursions and have the opportunity to talk to hundreds of people. The employees recognize us as “the baby model people” because we hand out fetal models at these events, as well as various literature, precious feet pins, bracelets and buttons, and of course, bumper stickers.

However, we were still quite busy! Governor Brown signed the bill which will allow Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Midwives to perform aspiration abortions, so we fielded several media calls.

I also enjoyed talking with our members, and try to note any calls regarding adult stem cell research, and share any developments on topics mentioned.

We continue to fight the Gardisil vaccine battle. No, your daughter does NOT need to have this vaccine in order to participate in school sports. Thanks to all who are standing up against having their daughters (and now sons are also included) vaccinated. If you would like a copy of the pamphlet on the dangers of Gardisil, please contact this office.

Calendar of Events

For the latest updates of events see

www.calendarforlife.org

Saturday November 9th. "Love Made Medicine: Christian Answers to Health Care Questions."

Annual Respect Life Conference at San Francisco's St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday, November 9th. "Love Made Medicine: Christian Answers to Health Care Questions." CME credits are available for nurses and possibly for doctors as well. Contact Vicki Evans: vevans1438@att.net or 415-614-5533

Saturday November 23 – Stealth Euthanasia: Is your loved one dying or being killed?

Biola University 13800 Biola Ave. La Mirada, CA
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 6 CEUs available for nurses.
Contact: info@SchollBioethics.org 714-963-4753

Combined Federal Campaign and other "Give at Work" Payroll Charity Drives are beginning or are now in progress. Please remember California Right to Life Educational Fund when the payroll pledge card comes around this fall. If you need any assistance, contact us: callife@calright2life.org or 925-944-5351. (For federal employees, our CFC number is 49743.)

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.

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