

# CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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*Established 1981*

## September 2012

### **USCCB 2012 PEOPLE OF LIFE AWARDS TO THERAPIST, RELIGIOUS SISTER**

*On August 7, 2012 The United States Council of Catholic Bishops issued the following press release*

WASHINGTON—A Sister of Social Service and a psychotherapist received the 2012 People of Life Award for lifetime commitment to the pro-life movement, at an August 6 ceremony at the annual Diocesan Pro-Life Leadership Conference in Anaheim, California. The honorees were Vincent Rue, PhD, and Sister Paula Vandegaer, SSS.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), presented the awards. Over 85 diocesan, state and national Catholic pro-life leaders attended the awards dinner sponsored by the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

The award recognizes Catholics who exemplify the call by Pope John Paul II in *The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae, 1995)* to dedicate themselves to pro-life activities and promoting respect for the dignity of the human person.

Rue, a practicing psychotherapist and traumatologist for 36 years, was the first mental health professional to provide clinical evidence of post-abortion trauma among women and the first to describe the adverse impact of abortion on fathers of aborted children. As co-founder of the Institute for Pregnancy Loss, he treats men and women traumatized by abortion and is a leading researcher in this field. Through published studies and as a legislation/litigation consultant, Rue's expertise has helped shape pro-life laws and influenced court decisions.

Sister Vandegaer, a licensed clinical social worker, has worked to build Christ-centered communities of support for abortion-vulnerable women and their families. Since 1967, she has helped to form hundreds

of pregnancy help centers. She is the founder and current Program Director of International Life Services, an agency of 44 centers serving 28,000 women internationally annually. In 1989, she founded the Scholl Institute of Bioethics dedicated to research, service and education for those faced with difficult bioethical decisions. In 1997 she started Volunteers for Life, a group of volunteers who live in Christ-centered community, dedicating themselves to service agencies in the Los Angeles area. She is best-selling author of the first textbook for pro-life counselors, *Introduction to Pregnancy Counseling (2000)*, and has lectured and conducted counselor training in 50 states and in Australia, Ireland, Belgium and Croatia.

The Pro-Life Secretariat has honored 17 other leaders since 2007.

For more information on the bishops' People of Life campaign, visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/people-of-life](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/people-of-life).

*I had the honor of participating in a conference with Dr. Vincent Rue PhD some years ago (“Reclaiming Fatherhood: A Multifaceted Examination of Men Dealing With Abortion”, held in San Francisco November 28-29, 2007) on “Man and Abortion” for more information on that project see:*

*<http://www.menandabortion.info/> Or to re-read the article about the conference from our February 2007 newsletter see:*

*<http://www.calright2life.org/CRLfeb2008.pdf>*

*And I have the honor of serving on the coalition Californians against Physician Assisted Suicide <http://www.caagainstassistedsuicide.com/> with Sister Vandegaer. (Cecelia Cody – Administrative Director – Ca Right to Life Ed Fund)*

**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)**

# Stunning Recovery for First Child to Get Stem Cell Trachea

By LARA SALAHI / *Good Morning America* – Wed, Jul 25, 2012 10:45 PM EDT (ABC News)

The first child in history to receive a trachea fashioned by his own stem cells has shown remarkable progress since the initial transplant two years ago, marking a new record for the novel procedure.

Ciaran Finn-Lynch, the now 13-year-old boy from the UK who the world's first child to receive the stem cell trachea transplant, is breathing normally and no longer needs anti-rejection medication, researchers reported in a paper published Wednesday in the journal *Lancet*.

The organ itself is strong, has not shown signs of rejection, and has even grown 11 centimeters since it had been transplanted, according to the researchers.

Ciaran was born with a rare condition known as Long Segment Tracheal Stenosis, marked by a small windpipe that does not grow and can restrict breathing. He underwent the stem cell transplant in March 2010 after a standard trachea transplant did not work.

Researchers at the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and the University College London, stripped cells from a donor trachea and then used Ciaran's own bone marrow stem cells to rebuild the airways in the body. They also infused growth proteins to generate the tissue lining.

Using a patient's own stem cells not only could help to rebuild the fragile tissue, but also potentially could bypass the risk of having the organ rejected. A trachea is considered a difficult tissue to grow and transplant since it has a limited blood supply, according to Dr. Bill Putnam, professor and chair of the department of thoracic surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, who was not involved in the research.

"I don't think there's anything standard about a tracheal transplant," said Putnam. "The fact that this single patient has survived for two years is worthy of notice."

Once the trachea was transplanted, the researchers continued to infuse growth proteins into the organ to continue stem cell generation. This technique allowed for researchers to transplant the organ faster instead of having to wait for the organ to grow outside of the body.

"Because the protocol used in this study was devised in an emergency, we applied empirically a new combination of technologies on the basis of previous clinical successes in non-airway settings," the researchers wrote, citing bioengineering techniques previously used to regenerate bone, nerves, and skin.

"We need more research on stem cells grown deliberately inside the body, rather than grown first in a laboratory over a long time," said Dr Martin Birchall, professor of Laryngology at the University College London, and co-author of the paper. "This research should help to convert one-off successes such as this into more widely available clinical treatments for thousands of children with severe tracheal problems worldwide."

Dr. Paolo Macchiarini, director of the Advanced Center for Translational Regenerative Medicine at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm -- who was the head surgeon in this case -- and his team have been performing the transplants since 2008, when they transplanted a trachea using adult stem cells on a woman in Barcelona who suffered from tuberculosis.

In January 2012, the first U.S. patient underwent a stem cell trachea transplant.

While the procedure seems to have worked in a few patients, many experts said the method is still in the earliest stages of development. "You never know what to do or how to interpret a success when it's one success," said Dr. Larry Goldstein, director of the stem cell program at University of California San Diego. "The question you grapple with is whether this treatment is going to be good with a larger number of people with this disease."

According to Putnam, should the treatment work for a wider group, the challenge may be in delivering such a specialized processed to a large number of people. "There's a lot of infrastructure that has to be established to grow these cells and maintain the tracheal scaffolds," said Putnam. "You can't get these off the shelves; they have to be individually constructed which takes time and effort."

<http://gma.yahoo.com/stunning-recovery-first-child-stem-cell-trachea-024532746--abc-news-wellness.html>

# Library Corner

## Anti-Abortionist At Large: How To Argue Abortion Intelligently And Live To Tell About It - by Raymond Dennehy

*Reviewed by Cecelia Cody – Administrative Director*

More than once in my tenure here at California Right to Life Ed Fund I have needed a strong spokesperson for our position on various issues. I was told to call one of our greatest spokespersons, Professor Raymond Dennehy a philosophy professor at University of San Francisco, who always made the time to talk to the media, and spoke eloquently and persuasively.

This past month I was able to obtain a copy of his seminal book, Anti-Abortionist At Large: How To Argue Abortion Intelligently And Live To Tell About It, and I recommend it as a great resource for anyone desiring the tools necessary to “debate” the pro-life/anti-abortion position.

At least once a year Dr. Dennehy would sojourn from the often fogged-in University of the San Francisco campus, to sunny UC Berkeley to participate in a “current issues in health care” debate. Throughout the book he recounts his experiences. He uses strong and very clear philosophical and biological (not religious) arguments against abortion, based on the natural law theory, and offers great insights on the tactics of pro-abortionists for obfuscating the moral issues. He also replies to typical objections to his arguments with insight and clarity.

The book is virtually a manual for speakers and advocates for the pre-birth child and the post-birth bearers of severe handicaps. He discusses many of the so-called personhood theories at length, and also addresses the argument from bodily autonomy as well as the argument from quality of life put forth by such ethicists as Peter Singer.

In the jaws of the holocaust that was unleashed by the Roe v Wade decision, Dr. Dennehy patiently and persistently has continued to expose the deceptive messages that the abortion culture gives young people. In fact, he says that in his 36 years of debating abortion, he does not recall more than two debate adversaries who were willing, in any serious way, to address the fundamental question: Is the unborn baby a human being?

Among the more interesting facts unveiled in the book, in 1963 Planned Parenthood's official pamphlet noted that "an abortion kills the life of the baby after it has begun - birth control merely postpones the beginning of life."

The final chapter fits right in with today's zombie literature; “On Abortion and Vampires” is quite engaging. Professor Dennehy makes many parallels between Dracula and abortion, and he is dead on, especially considering the use of fetal tissue. (See Victoria Evans' thesis Commercial Markets Created by Abortion: Profiting from the Fetal Distribution Chain [http://o.b5z.net/i/u/10060511/f/Licentiate\\_Thesis\\_PDF\\_1.pdf](http://o.b5z.net/i/u/10060511/f/Licentiate_Thesis_PDF_1.pdf)) Abortion is an attempt to make ourselves immortal at the expense of another; yet it is an empty, self destructive practice.

The book is comparatively short, given the material covered, and was an easy and fun read, packed with a lot of solid philosophy and defense of the unborn. Who says philosophers are dry and hard to understand? As you read this book you won't feel bogged down in philosophical jargon and unfathomable treatises, but rather almost as if you are sitting at coffee as Dr. Dennehy shares his methods of proclaiming the message to a secular audience.

*Raymond Dennehy is a retired Professor of Philosophy at the University of San Francisco. After serving from 1954-58 as a radarman in the U.S. Navy aboard the heavy cruiser, USS Rochester in the Pacific Theater of Operations, he attended the University of San Francisco, obtaining a B.A. in philosophy. He studied philosophy in the graduate school of the University of California, Berkeley, finally getting his Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Toronto. His previous books are Reason and Dignity and an anthology he edited, Christian Married Love. He is frequently invited on radio and television programs, as well as university campuses, to speak and debate on topics such as abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and cloning. He is married to Maryann Dennehy, has four children and eleven grandchildren. (From Amazon.com website) The book is available in both paper and e-book format from amazon.com.*

## Update on 40-Days for Life Campaigns

- **Nearly 6,000 babies saved from abortion since 2007!**
- 69 abortion workers have quit their jobs and walked away from the abortion industry
- 23 abortion facilities completely shut down following 40 Days for Life campaigns

- Hundreds of women and men have been spared from the tragic effects of abortion, including a lifetime of regrets
- Many people with past abortion experiences have stepped forward to begin post-abortion healing and recovery

## **The next 40 Days for Life: Sept 26 - Nov 4...JOIN US!**

<http://www.40daysforlife.com/>

## ***Calendar of Events***

Visit [www.calendarforlife.org](http://www.calendarforlife.org) for the most up-to-date information on activities and events happening in your area. Have you visited the website lately? It is totally "remodeled" to be even more user friendly.

### **2012 Global Walk for India's Missing Girls**

- Date: Saturday, September 15, 2012
- Time : 11 AM
- Location : San Francisco - TBD

For more details e-mail: [petalsinthedust@gmail.com](mailto:petalsinthedust@gmail.com)

Website:

[http://www.petalsinthedust.com/The\\_Walk2.html](http://www.petalsinthedust.com/The_Walk2.html)

On Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/globalwalkindiagirls/>

### **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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