

CALIFORNIA RIGHT TO LIFE EDUCATION FUND

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First Human iPS Cell Trial Approved

A Japanese research group will shortly begin the world's first clinical study using induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. The researchers received their final approval on August 1, after a long series of regulatory steps that included approval from the health ministry. The group, from RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology in Kobe, will be using retinal pigment epithelium cells, derived from iPS cells, in an attempt to stop macular degeneration. Six patients are to receive a graft in a single eye. Researchers will track the effect of the graft over a period of three years.

As *Nature* reported, "The iPS cells will be genetically identical to each patient's cells and thus, it is hoped, will avoid problems with immune rejection that hampered past attempts to use fetal-derived cells."

Ophthalmologist Masayo Takahashi will be using sheets of retinal pigment epithelium cells, derived from iPS cells, to try to halt the progression of age-related macular degeneration. In the wet-type AMD targeted by Takahashi, abnormal vascularisation invades and destabilizes the epithelium, which supports the photoreceptors, and causes loss of vision.

Meanwhile, American scientists have developed a new efficient means of generating human iPS cells. Researchers at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine report a simple, easily reproducible RNA-based method of generating human iPS cells in the August 1 edition of *Cell Stem Cell*. Their approach has broad applicability for the successful production of iPS cells for use in human stem cell studies and eventual cell therapies.

Partially funded by grants from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the methods developed by the UC San Diego researchers dramatically improve upon existing DNA-based approaches -- avoiding potential integration problems and providing what appears to be a safer and simpler method for future clinical applications.

Methods previously developed to generate integration-free iPSCs were not easily and efficiently reproducible. Therefore, the UC San Diego researchers focused their approach on developing a self-replicating, RNA-based method (one that does not integrate into the DNA) with the ability to be retained and degraded in a controlled fashion, and that would only need to be introduced once into the cell.

The method was shown to work on both young and old human cells. This is important since -- in order to be used therapeutically in fighting disease or to create disease models for research -- iPS cells will need to be derived from the cells of middle-aged to old adults who are more prone to the diseases scientists are attempting to treat. In addition, reprogramming factors can be easily changed.

<http://prolife.ie/news/2013/08/14/first-human-ips-cell-trial-approved>

PayPal co-founder develops technology to help couples overcome infertility naturally

by Lauren Enriquez

In an effort to help couples facing infertility problems achieve pregnancy, the co-founder of PayPal has developed an iPhone app to monitor fertility and track baby-making data. Max Levchin realized the need for more natural remedies to fertility issues when he and his wife struggled to conceive. His new iPhone app, *Glow* <https://www.glowing.com/>, just hit the Apple store, and it combines data and science to (if possible) help couples kick infertility through natural means, such as learning cervical mucus patterns and tracking a woman's cycle to obtain the best information about when her fertile days occur. If that doesn't work, the data analysis side of the app can direct couples to the most appropriate alternative solutions or medical intervention.

Levchin's app seems to be a step in the right direction, for several reasons. First of all, many couples who have used Natural Family Planning (NFP) have done so to achieve pregnancy, and been successful. However, today's NFP is often confused with the unsuccessful and scientifically unsound methods of pregnancy prevention of yesteryear, like the rhythm method. This couldn't be farther from the truth. Couples who use scientifically based natural means of pregnancy prevention and achievement have high success rates in accomplishing their objectives.

Levchin's app may help to solidify the fact that NFP is a legitimate and excellent alternative to many unnecessary hormonal and surgical interventions used for both pregnancy prevention and achievement. "He wants to radically change the way American doctors and patients talk about infertility," a recent article from *Quartz* on the subject said. And in the face of alternative treatments and ethical problems associated with mainstream infertility treatment, this radical change may be just what the doctor ordered.

Levchin and Huang [his co-founder] hope the free app, which has the same kinds of game-like features and simple design that make fitness junkies so app-happy, will make natural conception both easier and more fun. It gives its users daily prompts to enter data on everything from temperature to the sexual positions they've used. And it comes in his-and-hers versions, a choice intended to keep women from feeling that they're alone in their efforts to conceive.

Another reason why Levchin's focus on natural baby-making could be great for the world at large is that conventional infertility treatments at a doctor's office are riddled with moral conundrums, including the discarding of innumerable human beings who are created as a commodity to be used or discarded according to their supposed utility. *In vitro* fertilization (IVF), for example, is a treatment which regularly employs the creation of multiple embryos in a petri dish who are never intended for implantation in the safety of their mother's womb. Instead, a doctor extracts many eggs from a woman's ovaries, fertilizes them with her partner's (or some other male's) sperm, and then sorts through them with a microscope to determine which of the humans in his dish have the best chance of survival upon implantation. There could be one or maybe even five or six embryos who are deemed viable "enough" to have a shot at continuing

life. These are implanted, while their siblings are simply thrown away.

The second ethical dilemma arises after these unwanted embryos are discarded: the ones who were given a shot to continue life may be more successful than the infertile woman had hoped. She may find herself pregnant with twins, triplets, or more. Some women (think Kate Gosselin and OctoMom) have successfully carried six or eight healthy babies to term, but not all women are open to a future of chasing after multiples. To achieve their goal of having one or two healthy babies, a procedure called "selective reduction" may be employed, in which all of the viable embryos except for the one(s) the mother wants to keep are aborted. This may be done by injecting the baby's beating hearts with a solution which stops the heart *in utero*. The woman carries her remaining child(ren) to term, and when she gives birth, she also delivers her other long-dead babies in the process.

These practices have become commonplace in infertility medicine. Levchin's app is an opportunity to change the tide of unethical baby-related decisions.

<http://prolife.ie/news/2013/08/14/iphone-app-launched-help-overcome-infertility>

Update on Girl Scouts

We have reported several times in the past regarding the ties between the Girl Scouts and Planned Parenthood - the largest provider of abortions. Recently a very comprehensive website documenting specific concerns on a council-by-council basis was launched to track the Girl Scouts' ties to the abortion agenda. The website is www.MyGirlScoutCouncil.com.

Although the Girl Scout organization maintains that it takes "no position" on the issue of abortion (http://www.girlscouts.org/gsc_central/mpmf/faqs.asp) parents, churches, and pro-life activists have long complained of the pro-abortion slant of the Girl Scouts' resources, role models, and affiliations. The new parent-driven website is the creation of Ann Saladin, who was a featured presenter on this topic at the June 2013 National Right to Life Convention.

Saladin pulled her own daughter, a 4th generation Girl Scout, out of her parish troop after discovering financial and ideological links between the Girl Scouts

and organizations and individuals who advocate for reproductive rights.

“I wish a resource like this had been available when I was first contemplating my own daughter’s Girl Scout membership,” Saladin said in a LifeNews article. “I had no idea that her membership, and the financial contributions solicited through her council, were supporting the international scouting organization, WAGGGS, which aggressively pushes for sexual and reproductive health and rights for girls around the world while representing its 10 million members.”

Saladin hopes the website will spur greater accountability and transparency by Girl Scouts USA. “Parents have a right to know where their money goes and what messages the Girl Scouts are sending to, and on behalf of, their daughters,” she says.

Pam Fichter, president of Missouri Right to Life, which recently released their own policy statement of concern about the Girl Scouts, welcomes this new resource.

“We have found that providing specific, documented examples of the numerous pro-life concerns about the Girl Scouts to be an effective means to inform our local community. MyGirlScoutCouncil.com highlights current and verifiable pro-life concerns that apply directly to families and communities across the country,” she told LifeNews.

MyGirlScoutCouncil.com provides a valuable tool for parents, clergy, and pro-lifers by meticulously documenting how local councils specifically connect girl members throughout the United States to concerning activities, resources, funding, and affiliations.

The web site documents the Girl Scouts’ involvement in the May, 2013 Women Deliver Conference, an international event that included “safe and legal

abortion” among its overarching themes. It documents its role in the planning and facilitating of the December, 2012 [Bali Global Youth Forum](http://www.bali2012.org/) and the outcome declaration, which demands youth access to abortion.

It notes how GSUSA’s [Journey](http://www.girlscouts.org/journeys) curriculum series promotes women (Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, and Dolores Huerta among others) and organizations (such as WAGGGS, Amnesty International, Population Council, and the ACLU) that publically advocate for abortion. Every local council uses and sells the Journeys series to their girl members.

The web site also chronicles how local councils honor women politicians and activists who advocate for abortion rights, and promote additional organizations and content to the girl members

To view the entire article and links see:

<http://www.lifenews.com/2013/08/21/new-web-site-tracks-girl-scouts-ties-to-planned-parenthood-abortion/>

A Day at the Mall

by Cecelia Cody, Administrative Director

With the school year beginning, we “hung out at the mall” on Friday August 23rd doing an “Information Table for Life.” It was a very busy day, both at the mall in general and at our table. We were talking to visitors to our table most of the day, and there were times when we would have groups of six or eight.

The highlight of the day for me was when I was showing a “precious preborn” to one of the visitors in front of the table and a young man standing at the end of the table reached into his pocket and pulled out his “precious preborn” and told us he had gotten it at our table several months ago. He said he carries it with him all the time, and has shown it to many of his friends and associates.

This young man is an inspiration for us all. Do you carry a “precious preborn” or wear your precious feet pins all the time? Do you have the “fetal development timeline” wallet card in your wallet? And have you either memorized the phone number, or carry the card that gives the phone number which lists where to refer a women in a difficult pregnancy situation? Contact our office if you need any these items. We are all called to “Evangelize for Life” and if every does

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/>

something we can eradicate abortion from our nation and our world.

As always a special thank you to all our donors, who make it possible purchase and distribute the materials. Expenses continue to exceed donations in 2013. Please consider sending a few extra dollars our way if possible. (See entry below on "Give at Work" payroll charity drives.)

Calendar of Events

For the latest updates of events see www.calendarforlife.org



Fall 40 Days for Life – begins September 26th and will continue until November 4th, 2013. For more information, including a list of locations, visit the website <http://www.40daysforlife.com/>

National Life-Chain Sunday in cities across America! Sunday, October 6th, from 2:00 to 3:30
See www.lifechain.net for more info and locations.

Combined Federal Campaign and other "Give at Work" Payroll Charity Drives will be beginning this month. Please consider California Right to Life Educational Fund when the payroll pledge card comes around this fall. If you need any assistance, feel free to contact our office at callife@calright2life.org or by calling 925-944-5351. (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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