

Survey of Medical Research Associations and Foundations

Where They Stand on Immoral Research

Organizations that support and/or fund embryonic stem-cell research

ALS Association (www.alsa.org) In a statement announcing a research grant this group recently awarded, the association said: “As part of The ALS Association's commitment to funding research into the possible use of stem cell therapy for ALS, we are very pleased to announce a collaboration with Hope For ALS Foundation to fund a two year study on the "Generation of Human Motor Neurons From Stem Cells". In this proposed study, Dr. Zhang's group will develop methods to generate motor neurons from human embryonic stem cells.”

<http://www.alsa.org/research/grant.cfm?id=166>. (Access date: 3/23/07) The ALS Association also lobbied in favor of expanding federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research (see: <http://www.alsa.org/policy/article.cfm?id=673&CFID=3706506&CFTOKEN=94139094>)

American Association for Cancer Research (www.aacr.org) A position statement approved by the group's board of directors on 15 April, 2005, declares that “The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) recognizes the potential for stem cell research to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer... AACR further recognizes that stem cell research encompasses stem cells of many types, and stresses that each facet of stem cell research is in fact complementary - not duplicative... Embryonic stem cells (unspecialized stem cells found within very early stage embryos called *blastocysts*) have the ability to transform into the cells of every major organ system...AACR supports the ethical use of somatic cell nuclear transfer (also called SCNT or “therapeutic cloning”)...Research involving human embryonic stem cells must serve important research aims that cannot be reached by other means...*AACR believes that stem cell research can be conducted in a manner consistent with established ethical principles, and so strongly supports responsible explorations of the full spectrum of stem cell biology, including the use of human embryonic stem cells, for meritorious scientific research and therapy development.*” (italics in original) <http://www.aacr.org/home/public--media/public-policy--legislative-affairs/position-statements/responsible-exploration-of-the-full-spectrum-of-stem-cell-biology-is-essential-to-the-advancement-of-cancer-research.aspx>. (Access date: 5/10/07)

American Diabetes Association (www.diabetes.org) From its website: “Stem Cell Research - including Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) - holds great promise in the search for a cure and better treatments for diabetes...ADA has engaged in both state efforts to secure or increase funding for stem cell research and efforts to block proposals to ban this research. The American Diabetes Association supports stem cell research while strongly opposing reproductive cloning. We will continue to support legislation and proposals that enhance funding for stem cell research at the federal and state levels.

<http://diabetes.org/advocacy-and-legalresources/state-legislation/stemcell.jsp>. (Access date: 12/20/07)

American Lung Association (www.lungusa.org) “The [ALA] supports the NIH guidelines for human pluripotent [embryonic] stem cell research to ensure that this research is conducted in a legal and ethical manner.” The [ALA] believes the moratorium on federal funding of research involving fetal tissues should be lifted and fetal tissue research should be reinstated...” <http://www.lungusa.org/atf/cf/%7B7A8D42C2-FCCA-4604-8ADE-7F5D5E762256%7D/pp108research.pdf> (Access date: 10/31/07)

Glaucoma Research Foundation (www.glaucoma.org) “...we support the development of appropriate safeguards to allow this research to move forward...stem cell research has the potential to save millions from the horrors of not only glaucoma but such diseases as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, and even cancer...Stem cells are the undeveloped ordinary cells of very early-stage embryos. Many of these embryos have been grown in a laboratory from fertilized eggs; they were produced for in-vitro-fertilization but were later unused or donated...” (Letter on file)

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (www.jdrf.org) From its website: “JDRF strongly believes that research should be pursued using both [adult and embryonic] stem cell types. JDRF currently funds research on both adult and embryonic stem cells. Last year, the organization funded some \$2 million in human adult stem cell research, along with \$4.9 million in human embryonic stem cell research.”

http://www.jdrf.org/files/General_Files/Advocacy/2007/AESC_Position_Statement.pdf (Access date: 11/6/07)

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (www.lls.org) This foundation supported legislation in Congress, S.471, which aimed to “amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.”

http://action.lls.org/c.lkL1J8MLKrH/b.1492171/k.FADE/Current_Legislation/siteapps/advocacy/BillDetails.aspx?b=1492171&c=lkL1J8MLKrH&BillID=39450 (Access date: 11/6/07)

“The [LLS] Medical & Scientific Committee supports therapeutic human embryonic stem cell research”

http://www.leukemia-lymphoma.org/all_page.adp?item_id=360135. (Access date: 10/31/07)

March of Dimes. (www.marchofdimes.com) “The March of Dimes [MOD] supports the use of fetal tissue as one technique to broaden understanding of human biology and to use that understanding to improve pregnancy outcome... The MOD has provided funding for projects that involved research on fetal tissue throughout its history.” “The MOD supports research using both animal and human ES [embryonic stem] and adult stem cells that is scientifically and ethically sound and that conforms to the most recent federal policy.” (Policies on file)

National Hemophilia Foundation (www.hemophilia.org) From its website: “[NHF] unanimously supports embryonic and stem cell research as a legitimate and important area of scientific investigation and as a vital avenue of research toward curing hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.”

<http://www.hemophilia.org/NHFWeb/MainPgs/MainNHF.aspx?menuid=57&contentid=177> (Access date: 10/31/07)

National Multiple Sclerosis Society (www.nationalmssociety.org) From its website: “... To remedy the flaws in the current federal policy, the Society has supported recent legislation that would increase the number of approved embryonic stem cell lines that can be used in federally funded research by allowing new lines to be generated from embryos that have been donated for research purposes by people using the services of in vitro fertilization clinics.

http://www.nationalmssociety.org/docs/HOM/nmss_stemcell_statement.pdf (Access date: 11/2/07).

National Spinal Cord Injury Association (www.spinalcord.org) An NSCIA article published 1 May 2007 announces: “The U.S. Senate has passed S5, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, which would lift the ban on federally funded stem cell research. The bill had been passed by the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year. “We are pleased to see that the Senate has passed this important legislation, but remain frustrated that President Bush has publicly stated that he will again veto the bill,” said Marcie Roth, chief executive officer of NSCIA.”

<http://www.spinalcord.org/legal/news.php?dep=1&page=0&list=1108> (Access date: 10/31/07)

Parkinson’s Action Network (www.parkinsonsaction.org) From “Stem Cell Talking Points” on its website: “... Embryonic stem cells are uniquely promising for certain treatments—unmatched by adult stem cells... we owe it to those with serious illnesses to vigorously pursue both adult stem cell and embryonic stem cell research...”

<http://www.parkinsonsaction.org/content/view/212/212/> (Access date: 10/31/07)

Parkinson’s Disease Foundation (www.pdf.org) In the Spring 2005 edition of its official newsletter, “News and Review”, PDF says “opposition to such research involving both kinds of ES cells — those from blastocysts created by *in vitro* fertilization clinics and those derived through SCNT — is largely based on the belief that blastocysts should be treated as human beings because they have the potential to develop into a person. Those who disagree argue that personhood is not conferred until much later in the process — for example, after the blastocyst has become implanted in the uterine wall, or after pregnancy has developed to the stage at which the fetus has viability independent of the womb. The point is that there are multiple views on when exactly the beginning of human life is and no easy way of reconciling them. In such context, most people accept the notion of isolating small numbers of cells from blastocysts destined to be discarded from IVF clinics. Many also believe that it should be possible to use a patient’s cells from his or her own body, through SCNT [i.e. cloning], to treat one’s own diseases.” (Newsletter on file)

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation (www.komen.org) In a August 16, 2006 statement announcing its contributions to “cutting edge research,” the Komen Foundation declared: “Embryonic stem cells... have the potential to give rise to many different types of tissue. Because of this, embryonic stem cells are currently considered to have the most potential for use in the regeneration of diseased or injured tissues. One of those potential roles is providing better understanding of cancer development.”

<http://cms.komen.org/komen/NewsEvents/KomenNews/Archives/cuttingEdgeResearch>.

(Access date: 11/6/07). Furthermore, in the 2003 fiscal year the Susan G. Komen Foundation awarded more than \$475,000 in grants to local Planned Parenthood chapters

<http://www.cnsnews.com/ViewSpecialReports.asp?Page=\SpecialReports\archive\200502\SPE20050222a.html>

(Access date: 10/31/07)

Organizations claiming to not support or fund embryonic stem cell research

(Letters on file)

Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org) The Alzheimer's Association officially opposes any restriction or limitation on human stem cell research. However, it does not fund embryonic stem cell research and has never spent time or resources lobbying for it.

American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org) “No monies raised by the American Cancer Society are used to support embryonic or fetal tissue research. The Society is not funding lobby efforts in favor of federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. The Society’s grant to the Iowa Planned Parenthood to provide training of their staff on our smoking cessation program...has ended. There are no plans to provide additional grant funds” to Planned Parenthood. (Letter on file)

American Heart Association (www.americanheart.org) “The American Heart Association’s Board of Directors...approved standards for continued funding of adult stem cell research but said it will not fund human embryonic stem cell research. The board’s decision came after consideration of commentary from the Association’s constituents—volunteers, donors and the general public.” “The American Heart Association will not actively support or lobby in favor of [embryonic stem cell] research.” See also: <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=4757>

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (www.cff.org) “The scope of cystic fibrosis research supported by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation does not require fetal tissue studies. Most CF scientific research is based on human cells that are taken from people living with the disease.

National Kidney Foundation (www.kidney.org) “I am confident (after reviewing our research grants) that we can answer no to each of the four questions you posed regarding human fetal tissue and stem cell research.”

The following institute only funds adult stem cell research or other alternatives to embryonic stem cells.

John Paul II Stem Cell Research Institute (www.jp2sri.org) JP2SRI is a non-profit research institute whose mission is to advance research and education on stem cell research in a manner consistent with a pro-life bioethics. The Institute strictly focuses on adult and cord blood stem cell research and education. The Institute’s goal is to focus on reducing the barriers to translate basic research into clinical research. JP2SRI mission is to coordinate research activities between the Institute, academia and industry and to find treatment solutions for patients with chronic disorders that could potentially benefit from adult and umbilical cord stem cells. The Institute represents an opportunity for pro-life Christians to support ethical-derived stem cell research consistent with pro-life values. JP2SRI **DOES NOT** conduct human embryonic stem cell research and does not perform therapeutic cloning or somatic cell nuclear transfer. The majority of donations are directed toward research and education. There is low administrative overhead.

The following foundations are raising money to support research using adult stem cells and adult cell therapies to treat these diseases. They do not fund embryonic stem cell research.

Spinal Cord Injury Research Dr. Jean Peduzzi Nelson, of Wayne State University School of Medicine in Michigan, is researching the use of adult stems cells derived from olfactory tissue for the treatment of spinal cord injury. Published reports from a trial already conducted with human patients in Portugal have shown promising results from this approach. With a group of clinicians, Dr. Peduzzi is helping to prepare the FDA application to begin clinical trials here in the United States. If you wish to contribute to Dr. Peduzzi’s efforts to treat spinal cord injured patients, please make your check out to “Wayne State University” and specify in a cover letter and on the check that you wish the money to go to the “Peduzzi Spinal Cord Injury Research Fund”. These funds will be only used on research to develop and evaluate treatments for spinal cord injury. You can also specify that it only be used in adult stem cell research, as

this is Dr. Peduzzi's main focus. Upon receipt of the check, you will be mailed information so that this donation can be used as a tax deduction. Please mail your check (made out to "Wayne State University") to: Dr. Jean Peduzzi Nelson, 8137 Scott Hall School of Medicine, Wayne State University, 540 E. Canfield Avenue Detroit, MI 48201. Further information about Dr. Peduzzi's research can be found at: (<http://www.med.wayne.edu/anatomy/>) under research faculty.

The Thomas Hartman Foundation for Parkinson's Research (www.hartmanfoundation.org) Founded by Father Tom Hartman who is co-host, along with Rabbi Marc Gellman, of radio and TV's popular "God Squad." Father Hartman was recently diagnosed with Parkinson's which led him to establish The Hartman Foundation. The foundation excludes any funding for human embryonic stem cell research and supports research using adult stem cells to treat Parkinson's.

The Iacocca Foundation (Type 1/Juvenile Diabetes) (www.joinleenow.org) Through its "Join Lee" campaign, the Iacocca Foundation is raising money to support the research of Harvard's Dr. Denise Faustman. Dr. Faustman and her team at Massachusetts General Hospital have received FDA approval to begin human trials of an adult cell therapy that reverses Type 1 (juvenile) diabetes in animals. Although the researchers are ready to test this very promising approach in patients, millions of dollars are needed for human trials—and some major foundations are devoting much of their funding to research that relies on destroying human embryos instead. The Iacocca Foundation has contributed \$1 million for human trials using the Faustman approach, and is asking one million Americans to help by donating \$10 each.

Auto-Immune Disorders Dr. Richard Burt, M.D., of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, is using adult stem cells primarily to treat patients with auto-immune disorders, including such disorders as diabetes, multiple sclerosis, lupus, scleroderma, Crohns disease, myasthenia gravis, chronic inflammatory autoimmune polyneuropathy, rheumatoid arthritis, autoimmune related retinitis and optic neuritis, pemphigus, and other immune-mediated disorders. In 2007, Dr. Burt, along with a team of Brazilian doctors, led a groundbreaking study that used adult stem cells to reverse Type 1 (juvenile) diabetes in patients. That study was reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, 4/11/07 (see also <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn11571-rebuilt-immune-system-shakes-off-diabetes.html>).

Dr. Burt's most recent article, "Clinical Applications of Blood-Derived and Marrow-derived Stem Cells for Nonmalignant Diseases" (*Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, 2/27/2008), examined hundreds of studies that were conducted between January 1997 and December 2007, and found that therapies using blood- or bone-marrow derived stem cells can successfully and safely treat heart disease and autoimmune disorders (see: <http://pubs.ama-assn.org/media/2008j/0226.dtl> and http://www.stemcellresearch.org/press/2008-02-27_JAMA.pdf).

On March 13th, 2008, Dr. Burt participated at a Capitol Hill briefing that also included several of Dr. Burt's patients who had been successfully treated with their own adult stem cells for lupus, scleroderma, and multiple sclerosis. You can read their stories at [Http://www.stemcellresearch.org/testimony/capitalhill_briefing.html](http://www.stemcellresearch.org/testimony/capitalhill_briefing.html). If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to Dr. Burt's research in treating patients with adult stem cells, you may contact his division manager, Kate Quigley, at k-quigley@northwestern.edu for further information and assistance.

Produced By:

**Greg Schleppenbach, State Director
Bishops' Pastoral Plan for Pro Life Activities
215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 310
Lincoln, NE 68508**

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