



Muskegon County Right to Life News

April, 2007

U.S. Supreme Court Upholds Ban on Partial-Birth Abortion (4-18-07)

From the Desk of Fr. Frank Pavone, M.E.V.

The Supreme Court upheld the ban on partial-birth abortion that was enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in 2003. This is a day of historic progress for the pro-life cause, whose ultimate goal is to restore protection to every unborn child, at every stage of development.

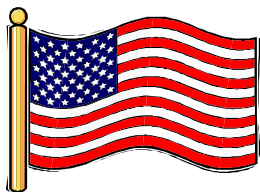
For the first time since Roe vs. Wade, the United States of America has actually banned an abortion procedure, rather than just regulated it.

The pro-abortion forces attempted to strike down the ban because it does not have a health exception. The Court, however, said that the ban's opponents failed to demonstrate that the need for a health exception was extensive enough to render the law unconstitutional. The Court also rejected the arguments that the ban is too broad or too vague. The wording of the ban is clear enough for abortionists to know when they are and are not violating the law.

This decision reminds us that elections matter.

- The work done by so many pro-life people in the elections of 2000, 2002, and 2004 made this decision possible.
- The lawmakers who passed the ban were elected, as was the President who signed it into law.
- The Senators who confirmed the two new Supreme Court Justices were elected, as was the President who nominated those Justices.

The fruit of these elections should lead us to renew our commitment to elect pro-life candidates in 2008.



*Thank you for
voting
pro-life!*



Stem Cell News

Back Pain Treated Using Patient's Own Stem Cells

Dr. Stephen Richardson, specializing in regenerative medicine at the University of Manchester, England, has developed a treatment for lower back pain using the patients' own stem cells.

This minimally-invasive surgical technique implants a combination of the patient's own mesenchymal stem cells (MCS's) and a collagen gel into the affected disc tissues. This procedure has the potential to cure lower back pain with one treatment, as well as save massive amounts of health care dollars by lessening hospital stays and eliminating the need for continuous pain relievers. There are no tissue rejection issues, since the patient is receiving his own stem cells.

Dr. Richardson's innovation earned him the young Biotechnologist of the Year Award co-sponsored by Nature Magazine. Pre-clinical trials may begin by next year.



Woman Saved From Acute Leukemia Using Umbilical Cord Blood Stem Cells

A 27 year old woman from Israel contracted acute secondary leukemia that endangered her life. She received umbilical cord blood stem cells from two mothers who had just given birth, which saved her life.

- The beauty of using cord blood is that it does not necessarily have to be an exact match, unlike bone marrow transplants.
- Another major advantage to using umbilical cord blood stem cells is that the graft "took" in two weeks, rather than one month for bone marrow transplants. By cutting hospital stays in half, the potential cost savings for health care will be enormous.

New mothers should consider donating cord blood to either private or public banks. Building up cord blood donations in the network will result in matches being readily available.



"PRESIDENT'S PLACE"

Muskegon County Right to Life is conducting a membership drive this spring. We rely on your generous support through annual memberships and donations to fund our Muskegon office.

As you renew your membership each year, a portion of this money supports Right to Life of Michigan as well as our Muskegon office.

Please consider renewing your membership this month with one of the following options:

- \$5 Senior or Student
- \$15 Family
- \$25 Bronze
- \$50 Silver
- \$75 Gold
- \$100 Platinum

As a member, you will receive the Muskegon County and the State *Right to Life* newsletters, and you are invited to use the educational materials at the Muskegon County Right to Life office.

A membership form is provided on the back of this newsletter for your use. Thank you for joining or renewing your membership this month!

Be sure to see the great news on page one regarding the Supreme Court decision to uphold the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act!

One of our many challenges is the fight against embryonic stem cell research. Not a single human patient has yet been helped by stem cells obtained by killing human embryos. There are several articles in this newsletter on this topic so that you can be informed and spread the word on this very important life issue.

We have filled our part time Office Manager position. Please join us in welcoming Kristine Piotrowski.

Thank you for all you do to support life!
Pat Vendal
President, Muskegon County Right to Life

Adult Stem Cells Found in Hair Follicles

Adult stem cells have been found in the bulge of hair follicles and are readily available without controversy or rejection problems said Dr. Maya Sieber-Blum from the Medical College of Wisconsin.

These cells called epidermal neural crest stem cells, are similar to embryonic stem cells, in that they have a "high degree of plasticity, can be isolated at high levels of purity, and can be expanded in culture." When these cells were grafted into the spines of mice with spinal cord injuries, the cells integrated into the spinal cord, stayed there and did not form tumors.

These cells could lead to nerve replacement, treat Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, Hirschsprung's disease, stroke, peripheral neuropathies and ALS. These partially specialized cells found in hair follicles can be replicated "into millions of cells without losing stem cell markers."

This discovery is another reason why it is not necessary to go forward with the controversial method of destroying days old human embryos for their stem cells in order to find cures.

U.S. Senators Vote To Use Tax Dollars For Destructive Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research (4-11-07)

The U.S. Senate has approved legislation that would mandate federal funding of the type of stem cell research that requires the killing of human embryos.

The margin by which this passed was 63-34. Unfortunately, Michigan's U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow voted in favor of using our tax dollars for this destructive research.

Adding her support to federally-funded, destructive embryonic stem cell research, Governor Jennifer Granholm signed a letter, with a handful of other governors, urging U.S. Senators to approve this legislation.

President Bush has said that he will veto the legislation.

Not a single human patient has yet been helped by stem cells obtained by killing human embryos. Meanwhile, many thousands of human patients have been helped with other types of stem cells, obtained in non-controversial ways that do not require harming human embryos.



In Loving Memory of...

Beverly Osterman by Christine Osterman

Victor Miller by Mr. Tom Linck,
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Miller, The Rollenhagens,
The Perri Family, Janet Valliere,
Jerry and Nancy Harriman,
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wickham,
Mrs. Nancy Gomery, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Miller,
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Drozd, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Doyle,
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Chrony, Marcie Hagstrom,
Margaret Pontius, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hickema
and Jim and Pat Vendal

Donations:

Fifth Reformed Church
*Johanna Kuhn
Ralph G. Ryan M.D.
Deolores Sytek

*Denotes monthly contributions

Donations made to Michigan Right to Life Education Fund are tax deductible. This fund is used to produce and run the pro-life commercials that you see on TV.

Donations made to our local affiliate are not tax deductible, but are needed to keep our office running. Perhaps you'd like to remember a loved one's birthday, or the birth of a child or a grandchild.



*Muskegon County Right to Life
In Loving Memory or Honor of...*

Enclosed in my gift of:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Donation Made in Memory of:

Donation Made in Honor of:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birthday | <input type="checkbox"/> New Arrival |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Father's Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speedy Recovery | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Please notify: _____

Address: _____

Our name is: _____

Address: _____

Please make your checks payable to:

**Muskegon County Right to Life
423 West Norton, Suite 111
Muskegon, MI 49444**

This contribution is not tax deductible.



**VICTOR L. MILLER
1922 - 2007**

The Muskegon County Right to Life Board expresses our deepest sympathy to the family of Victor Miller.

Vic was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. In addition, he was a strong supporter of Muskegon Right to Life and the father of our beloved late president Marcia Tackx.

We are blessed to have had him in our lives and we will miss him.

May the peace that comes from the memories of love shared be with you, and may you take comfort in knowing there is one more angel above us.



How Can You Help?

Our meetings are the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at our office in the Next I. T. Building, 423 W. Norton. You are welcome at our meetings. Please come to a meeting to learn more about what you can do to help!

We are in need of a Secretary for the Board. Are you interested?



Take my hand, not my life

Visit our web site at: www.muskegonrtl.org



Muskegon County Right to Life
 423 W. Norton, Suite 111
 Muskegon, MI 49444
 231 733-6300

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**Yes! I want to help save lives.
 Please enroll me as a member of *Muskegon County Right to Life*
 and *Right to Life of Michigan*.**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____
E-mail: _____

Membership Options:

- \$5 Senior or Student
- \$15 Family
- \$25 Bronze
- \$50 Silver
- \$75 Gold
- \$100 Platinum
- New Member
- Renewal

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