

Livingston County Life-Line

Summer 2005

Right to Life
Livingston County, Inc.
P.O. Box 934
Brighton 48116

Summer hours
Tuesday-Thursday
10 a.m. -2 p.m.
and by appointment

rtlcl@sbcglobal.net



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If they Say..... You say.....

Embryonic stem cell research is one of the most controversial issues of the day. The following information gives examples of arguments for the side advocating the killing of embryos for re-search and then gives rebuttals to

these arguments. For many people, the reality that stem cells can be obtained from adults, fat and umbilical cord blood is unknown. Educating others that stem cell research can be pursued without taking the life of a human embryo is needed. Pro-life people also want to see cures for diseases, but not at the expense of members of the human race.

If they say....

Stem cells aren't alive. If stem cells possess life-saving possibilities, why shouldn't they be used for research?

You say....

You are right, stem cells aren't alive. However, a living human embryo must be destroyed in order to obtain embryonic stem cells. Every time embryonic stem cells are extracted from a human embryo, a unique individual is destroyed. The removed stem cells would have developed into the child's heart, kidneys and all of the 210 different kinds of tissue found in the human body.

Embryos have the 46 chromosomes that make them human. It is already decided if they will be a boy or a girl. It is already decided what color eyes they will have. From the first day of conception until death, nothing has or will be added to them except food and oxygen.

If they say....

It's just a frozen fertilized egg.

What's the big deal?

You say....

This statement is false. A fertilized egg is the term used to describe a one-cell human in its first day of development.

A fertilized egg does not have any stem cells to extract because it is only one cell. Embryonic stem cells are

removed from embryos who are around a week old. These embryos are called blastocysts and they number several hundred cells.

Life begins at conception. We all began life when a sperm joined an ovum. The size of a human body doesn't give life value. Is a 6'5, 300-pound man more valuable than a newborn child?

It is also important to mention that an embryo is no less valuable if she is frozen than if she is in her mother's womb. The stage of development, temperature, and size of a child don't determine its value. The fact that an embryo is a human life is what makes her priceless.

If they say...

It doesn't even look like a human.

You say....

Actually, it does look human. This is exactly how every human looks during this stage of development. Every human looked the same shortly after conception. Just because people aren't as familiar with this stage of development doesn't mean that an embryo isn't human and doesn't look like a human. Many people have different deformities or peculiarities that take away from their ability to look like the "ideal human." That doesn't mean that they're not human and that they don't have the same rights as other humans. The way

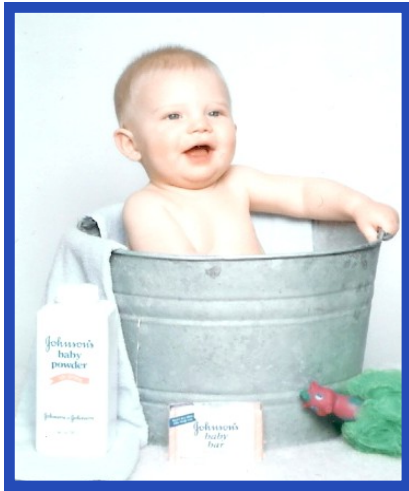
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Stem cell research- know the facts

Precious Baby Contest

Fowlerville Fair 2005 - July 9-16

Sponsored by: Right to Life-Livingston County, Inc.



The babies with the most votes win!

**Vote as often as you like:
10¢ each or 12 for a \$1**

Great Prizes!

**Entrants must be 2 years or younger
Winners notified by phone
July 22-31**

Entries must be received by noon on Saturday, July 16 2005

Baby's Name _____ Sex _____ Age _____

Parent's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

Rules: Photo should be 5 x 7 or smaller, only one baby allowed per photo please. By entering this contest, I, a parent or guardian, give my permission that this photo may be used in a fundraiser for Right to Life-Livingston County, Inc. at Livingston County's Fowlerville Fair 2005. I also agree that Right to Life-Livingston County, Inc. may use the photo: for a press release announcing the winner, and/or in subsequent newsletters-Precious Baby Contest flyers. Affiliate is not responsible for loss or damage to photo. For questions, please call 810-227-5788 or email rtlcc@sbcglobal.net. Send completed entry form along with photo to:

Right to Life
Livingston County Inc
P.O. Box 934
Brighton, MI 48116-0934

Can't attend the fair?
Purchase votes now, send check with entry form
OR please bill my:
MasterCard/Visa/Discover

Card number _____ Exp. date _____

Signature _____ 3 digit code _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Number of votes _____ Total donation amount _____

Mother's Day carnations a great success

The Mother's Day Carnation Sale was a huge success thanks to the continuing support of local churches. The variety in carnations made this the most colorful sale ever. Be sure to thank Country Lane Flower Shops, in Brighton or Howell, for their support in supplying "fancy" grade carnations at a discounted price.

Grace & Restoration Fellowship once again graciously allowed us the use of their church kitchen, basement and parking lot for preparation and distribution of the carnations. Thank you for helping to make delivery day a smooth operation. The convenience of using the same location as a pick up point is greatly appreciated and helps to simplify the project.

Special thanks to Denise DeRocher who, for five years, has coordinated this event. Doing mailings, phone work, processing the flowers for pick-up and other details requires many hours. Denise DeRocher, Linda Streetman and office volunteers worked hard at getting flower orders.

The volunteers for the pick-up date were Denise DeRocher and her daughters Tess and Hannah, Molly and Anna Birney,

Penny and Paul Sobonya, Michael Cedar and Linda and Richard Streetman. Thank you for making the processing and pick-up of a matching record high of 6200 carnations go smoothly. The enthusiasm and cheerfulness of the returning student volunteers helps to make the day a fun one for all involved.

We also welcome several new churches and schools to this annual event. If your church was without carnations on Mother's Day, call our office and we can make arrangements for next year. Thank you for helping us to continue to educate, motivate, and encourage community support on behalf of the defenseless unborn.

**Brighton Christian Church
Brighton Church of Christ
Brighton Church of the Nazarene
Brighton Wesleyan Church
Church of The Resurrection
Conway Free Methodist Church
Cornerstone Christian School
Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian
Fellowship Bible Church
First Baptist Church of Fowlerville
First Baptist Church of Howell
Grace & Restoration Fellowship**

**Green Oak Free Methodist Church
Heart of the Shepherd Lutheran
Heritage Hills Free Methodist
Hidden Springs Church
Howell Assembly of God
Howell Children's Center
Howell Church of Christ
Lakeland Trails Baptist Church
Livingston Christian School
Marr Community Bible Church
New Covenant Christian Fowlerville
Oak Grove United Methodist
Old St. Pats in Northfield Twp.
Pleasant Valley Baptist
St. Agnes Church
St. Augustine Catholic Church
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church
St. Mary Catholic Church
St. Patrick Catholic Church
St. Pat's School
Trinity Lutheran Church
United Brethren in Christ Church
of Fowlerville**



Life-Line Project and database update

In a previous mailing, nearly 2500 flyers were sent out for the Livingston County Life-Line Project. It's purpose is three-fold: to add and or renew memberships, to expand newsletter distribution and increase financial support.

Our heartfelt thanks to those who over the years have faithfully supported our affiliate with prayers and financial donations. The good news is our membership and newsletter distribution has expanded from 175 to nearly 2500. This success prevents us from using our previous renewal process. If you haven't renewed your membership yet we encourage you to take the time to do so now. Please use the form on page 7.

Our last newsletter also mentioned that

we lost our database file. We are happy to report that your name, address, expiration date and phone numbers were not misplaced or in someone else's hands. The file with the information for over 4000 people became corrupted and will not open and therefore can no longer be used.

Consequently, we are in the middle of rebuilding our database, with updated software, using copies of older lists. All the information must be entered by hand and we hope to have this monumental task completed by the end of fall.

Until the kinks are all worked out, there may be some problems with future mailings. We sincerely apologize for the confusion and any inconvenience this

may cause. Feel free to call the office at 810-227-5788 if you have any questions.

As always, we count on your prayers and financial support. We look forward to increasing our educational outreach when hundreds more receive our newsletter. The local community will benefit and lives will be saved as we change individual hearts and minds about abortion and other life issues.

Help Wanted

Office help needed (see article) for data entry. Accuracy is important, but no experience necessary and training will be provided. If you are available a couple hours a week or a month, we need you!

Welcome Summer! We wish everyone a safe and happy summer.

Please take the time to carefully read the article in the newsletter about stem cell research.

It is very important that prolifer-

ers understand the facts regarding stem cell research and are able to dispel the lies and media distortions with the truth. We must educate ourselves before we can have an impact on others.

And speaking of education - it is our most important tool! Our mission is to help educate the Livingston County community on the truths regarding life issues. Maintaining a local office, our presence at community events and the

wide-spread distribution of our newsletter are some of the ways we accomplish our goals.

Earlier this year you received a special mailing announcing a new program - the Life Line Project. If you have not already joined this effort, consider helping us out at this time. We promise to be good stewards of your gifts. Please be generous. There is more information and a donation form included in this newsletter. Thank you for your help.

Don't forget to visit our booth at the Fowlerville Fair, July 9-16. Be sure to enter your precious babies (two years old and under) in our Precious Baby Contest. Entry forms must be submitted

no later than noon on July 16 and are in the newsletter.

Please remember our work in your prayers.

God bless,

God bless,
Penny Sobonya
Board Chair

From the Board

Stem cell research-know the facts

omething looks doesn't make it

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human. Some believe stem cells from human embryos are human enough for research, but not human enough to join the human family. This logic defies the reality that life begins at conception, a truth some researchers and politicians would like to ignore.

If they say....

All of these embryos will just be destroyed anyway, so why not use them for helpful research?

You say....

Embryonic research advocates act like all of the embryos in fertility clinics that aren't used will be thrown away. This, however, is simply not the case. The parents generally have at least two other options. First, preserve the embryos for possible future use (chosen by about 90%). Two, donate the embryos to another couple so they can have a child.

Even if the embryos are going to be destroyed that doesn't mean that we have the right to experiment with their bodies. Was it right for Nazi doctors to experiment with concentration camp prisoners that were going to be killed? Is it right

for us to experiment with convicts on death row? The obvious answer is no. As a civilized society, we recognize the importance of human life. In order to stay a civilized society we can't abandon our respect for every individual human being.

It is theorized that embryos from fertilization clinics will be used for the initial experiments. However, if these experiments are successful, some in the biotechnology community have anticipated that the supply of embryos from clinics wouldn't be enough. This is where human cloning enters the picture. During a Congressional Committee, Biotechnology Industry Organization said that the cloning of embryos "are a critical and necessary step in the production of sufficient quantities of vigorous replacement cells for the clinical treatment of patients."

If they say....

Embryos are the only place to find stem cells.

You say....

There are many life-affirming alternatives to stem cells taken from destroyed embryos. Initially, alternative stem cell research was not extensive because al-

ternative stem cells were thought to be less available and versatile. However, there have been many recent breakthroughs in the use of stem cells that are derived from alternatives to embryos. The most promising of these alternative methods is the use of adult stem cells. All people have stem cells located in blood, bone marrow, and brains. In rats and mice, it has been found that scientists can use key cells from adult bone marrow and can rebuild a damaged heart—actually creating new heart muscle and blood vessels². The British Medical Journal has stated that research on embryonic stem cells "may soon be eclipsed by the more readily available and less controversial adult stem cells³." Adult bone marrow stem cells have been shown to form tissues including bone, muscle, fat, liver, and neural cells⁴. There is also the case of an 18 year-old woman whose spinal cord was severed in automobile accident. Thanks to white blood cells from her own skin and bone marrow that have been injected into the damaged area, she now has regained bladder control and recovered significant motor function in her legs.

Researchers have also found stem cells in human fat. Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and UCLA got fat

Stem cell research-know the facts

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collected stem cells from this fat which grew into muscle, bone, and cartilage cells⁵.

Another important note is that stem cells derived from the bodies of patients don't face the possibility of rejection, unlike embryonic stem cells. This rejection can lead to death since the cells can't be extracted once they are injected.

Yet another promising alternative to embryonic stem cell research that doesn't have ethical implications is research on stem cells found in the blood of umbilical cords. The small amount of blood found in umbilical cords after birth is rich in stem cells. Researchers have said "Umbilical cords discarded after birth may offer a vast new source of repair material for fixing brains damaged by strokes and other ills, free of the ethical concerns surrounding the use of fetal tissue⁶."

These preceding examples are only a few of the many alternatives to human embryo stem cells. For a long list of alternative research and findings to go to and look at the current clinical and potential applications of adult stem cells.

If they say....

Without embryonic stem cell research, the great potential of stem cells is wasted.

You say....

As mentioned above there are many life-affirming alternatives to embryonic stem cell research. Continued research is needed for these kinds of research but if

the federal government begins to fund embryonic stem research that means that there will be less federal funds for research on adult stem cells. On March 8, 2001, a group of plaintiffs, including the Christian Medical Association filed suit against the NIH to prevent federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. The lawsuit argued that federal funding of embryonic stem cell research would cut the funding available for adult stem cell research⁷.

If they say....

Scientists should be allowed to do the research. Who is the government to stop them?

You say....

The Bush administration isn't deciding if embryonic stem cell research should be illegal. It is deciding if federal funds should go towards supporting this kind of research. There is a law, called the "Dickey Amendment," which states that federal funds can't be used for "research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death." The Clinton administration got around this law by accepting the NIH (National Institutes of Health) Guidelines that separated the research on the embryonic stem cells from the act of obtaining those stem cells. So researchers would have to privately fund the obtaining of stem cells through the destruction of human embryos but could get public funds for research on those cells. Our government shouldn't be involved in promoting research that involves and requires the destruction of innocent human lives.

If they say....

Embryonic stem cells have already helped people. Isn't that evidence enough?

You say....Actually, embryonic stem cells have probably done more damage than help to humans. The whole argument behind research on embryonic stem cells is based on potential cures not current cures. There are a few problems with using embryonic stem cells in actual surgeries.

One problem is that these cells are completely undifferentiated so they don't always become what researchers want them to become. There was an experiment in China, where a man with Parkinson's was injected with fetal and embryo cells. He died unexpectedly after improving briefly. His autopsy revealed that his death was caused by the "unexpected growth of bone, skin, and hair in his brain, material the authors theorized resulted from the transformation of undifferentiated stem cells into non-neural, and therefore deadly, tissues⁸."

Another problem is that the undifferentiated stem cells could become cancer cells. In an interview with Technology Review, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology publication, University of Pennsylvania bioethicist Glenn McGee said, "The emerging truth in the lab is that pluripotent (embryonic) stem cells are hard to rein in. The potential that they would explode into a cancerous mass after a stem cell transplant might turn out to be the Pandora's box of stem

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Free ultrasound-see your baby in action

Pregnancy Helpline has recently been approved for a new ultrasound. Focus on the Family, through their Option Ultrasound program, has determined that the crisis pregnancy center meets their criteria.

The new equipment has been installed, but Pregnancy Helpline needs your help. Four women are in training to be ultrasound technicians. In order to be certified, they must do ultrasounds on pregnant volunteers. If you will be in your first or early 2nd trimester in August, and are willing to help these women

become certified, please call 810-494-5433.

Crisis pregnancy centers report that nearly 90% of pregnant women who have an ultrasound decide to continue their pregnancies. If you are pregnant, you can see your baby in action and help someone become certified for women with unplanned pregnancies. Ultrasound is a powerful tool that works to save lives, call today!



15th Annual Focus On Life Dinner

Featuring guest speaker



Dr. Richard Land

President of
The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Thursday, October 20, 2005
6:30-9:30

Crystal Gardens
5768 E. Grand River-Howell, MI

Dr. Richard Land addresses social, moral and ethical concerns and their impact on American families. He is one of the most influential prolife speakers of our day. President George W. Bush appointed Dr. Land to two terms on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. In May, 2004, Land was recognized by the prestigious National Journal as one of the ten top church-state experts "politicians will call on when they get serious about addressing an important public policy issue." In February, 2005, he was featured in Time Magazine as one of "The Twenty-five Most Influential Evangelicals in America." Dr. Land is a radio and talk-show host, author of several books and has appeared on *Hannity & Colmes*, *Meet the Press* and *Scarborough Country*.

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual reservations \$45 per person <input type="checkbox"/> Personal table of 10 for \$400 - save \$10 per couple! <input type="checkbox"/> I cannot attend but wish to help the prolife movement with the enclosed gift of \$ _____				For your convenience we also accept charge cards _____ Please bill by MasterCard/Visa/Discover card number	
_____ Name-Address				_____ Name as it appears on card exp. date	
_____ City	_____ State	_____ Zip	_____ Phone	_____ Signature last 3 digits on sign pad	
Make checks payable to: Right to Life-Livingston County, Inc. P.O. Box 934, Brighton, MI 48116-0934 Dinner reservations are not tax-deductible				Registration begins at 6 p.m. For additional information call 810-227-5788 or e-mail rtlhc@sbcglobal.net Ticket purchase includes one year affiliate membership	

Together we are making a difference!

Stem cell research-know the facts

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cell research.”

If they say....This kind of research could save lives and we should explore all areas of research that could find ways to cure such a wide array of diseases.

You say....

Even though this research could be helpful, it is still never ethically correct to sacrifice the life of one human to save another without their consent. This kind of utilitarian thinking was the same kind

of rationale used by Nazi scientists and during syphilis experiments on African Americans in Tuskegee, Alabama.

Medical advancement should continue but not through the taking of human life. No human being should be forced to be made the subject of research without their permission, especially if that research leads directly to their destruction.

References:

- 1Prentice, D., No Fountain of Youth, Regeneration Online.
- 2Bazell, R. “Approach may repair heart

damage,” NBC Nightly News, 3/30/01.
3Jofeson, D., Adult Stem Cells May be Redefinable, British Medical Journal, January 30, 1999; 318, p. 282.

4Prentice, D., No Fountain of Youth, Regeneration Online.

5Lemonick, M., Who Will Live Longest?, Time, April 23, 2001, p. 64

6“Umbilical cords could repair brains,” Associated Press, 2/20/01.

7Boston Globe, 3/14/2001.

8Smith, W. “The Politics of Stem Cells: The good news you never hear.,” The Weekly Standard, March 26, 2001/Vol 6, Number 27

Please let us know if you would prefer to be removed from our mailing list. Contact our office at 810-227-5788 or email rtlhc@sbcglobal.net

Fowlerville Fair booth volunteers

The Fowlerville Fair is just days away and runs July 9-16. If you would like to volunteer at our booth, there is still time to sign up. Shifts are 11-2, 2-5, 5-8 and 8-10. Entry passes are provided. No

experience is necessary, but you must be prolife! Working at the booth is so rewarding that most people return every year when schedules allow. Please call 810-227-5788 today.

Life-Line Project/Membership/Donation Form

November 28, 2004 marked the 25th anniversary of the prolife movement in Livingston County. We are proud to be partnering with the local community on behalf of the unborn. The abortion rate in our state and for teens has decreased, saving lives. Education about abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and assisted suicide works to change the minds and hearts of many about life issues. In addition to education, the election of prolife candidates has enabled our legislature to pass laws protecting the innocent unborn and elderly frail. This is possible because of your efforts, prayers and financial support. We need you!

\$15 New/Renewal \$5 Sr. Citizen \$5 Students

Name		Address		
City	State	Zip	email address	Phone

For your convenience, we also accept charge cards, above address information required for charging

Please bill my MasterCard/Visa/Discover (circle one) _____

Card number	Expiration date
Signature	Security code (last 3 digits on sign pad)

Make checks out to: **Right to Life**
Livingston County Inc
P. O. Box 934
Brighton, MI 48116-0934

_____ Dollar amount



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 Livingston County, Inc.
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 Brighton, MI 48116-0934

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**15th Annual
 Focus on Life Dinner
 Tickets now available!**

In Loving Memory and Honor of

You may honor a deceased loved one by making a memorial contribution to Right to Life-Livingston County. This memorial gift is a fitting way to remember a lifetime of love for the unborn. Your contribution can also be made to commemorate birthdays, new arrivals, graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day or any other special occasion. An acknowledgment card will be sent to the family or person you designate. The contribution amount will be kept confidential.

Enclosed is my (our) gift of
 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other

Made in memory of: _____

Made in honor of: _____

Occasion _____

Please notify:

 Name

 Address-City-State-Zip

My (our) name is _____

I would like a notice of this gift in the next newsletter- yes no

Any donation entitles you to a one-year membership.

“You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother’s womb.

When my bones were being formed, carefully put together in my mother’s womb, when I was growing there in secret, you knew that I was there-you saw me before I was born.”

Psalm 139: 13, 15