Adult Stem Cells Can Renew and Repair Tissue Researchers Show

Stanford University scientists report that adult muscle stem cells can repair damaged tissue cells. They transplanted skeletal adult muscle stem cells into immune-suppressed mice who had damage to hind limb muscle tissue and found that the stem cells restored lost function to the mice. They subsequently found that the regenerated tissue was capable of muscle cell growth and repair, restoring muscle healing function.

Alveda King, Niece of Dr. King, Urges Obama to Oppose Abortion

Alveda King and a group of pro-life leaders in the black community are sending a message to Obama to oppose abortion.

“African Americans like many Americans are pro-life... We are one human race and it’s time to stand up for the truth. It’s time to stand up for life, liberty and family,” declares a statement the group released. “We need to let Barack Obama know that our children’s lives are more important than the money and political support of the abortion lobby.... This nation was founded upon life, liberty, and justice for all,” the statement continues.

The group led by Alveda King is sending their statement as an “open letter” to Obama, members of Congress, state legislators and other officials.
Abortion Advocates Dictate Radical Abortion Agenda for Obama To Follow

In a 55 page memo, abortion advocates, including Planned Parenthood and NARAL, have specified decisions they are urging Obama to make during his administration to promote abortion-on-demand as a legal “right” and require taxpayer funding for it. This memo is posted on Obama’s transition team website.

The memo’s priorities for the Obama administration include:

- Pass the radical “Freedom of Choice Act” (FOCA) and sign it into law. This legislation would make abortion-on-demand an established right by national law and overturn the hundreds of pro-life laws that have been passed in the 50 states over the last decades.
- Repeal the Hyde amendment (which prohibits funding abortions except to save the life of the mother or for cases of rape & incest).
- Include an abortion mandate in a health care reform bill.
- Direct more funding to family planning programs, which means more money for Planned Parenthood (which, according to its annual report received $1 billion in income last year).
- Ask Congress to reject the Weldon Amendment that protects health care providers who do not want to provide, pay for or refer for abortions.
- Advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services to take immediate steps to reverse the Bush regulations protecting medical professionals who refuse to provide abortions for reasons of conscience.
- Restore funding to UNFPA which supports a program which includes forced abortion, sterilization and the one-child policy in China. The memo asks for $65 million in funding for UNFPA.
- Overturn the Mexico City Policy which bans federal funding of international pro-abortion groups that promote legalizing abortions in countries which have pro-life laws. The memo says $1 billion should be allocated for such groups.
- Appoint only pro-abortion judges to the Supreme Court and lower federal courts.

Douglas Johnson, legislative director for National Right to Life Committee, pointed out that, “This document is a road map to what we call “the Obama abortion agenda.”

“The pro-abortion lobby has presented its radical abortion agenda to the Obama Administration in a single tidy 55-page package—even including the exact language of presidential orders that these lobbying groups want Obama to sign,” Johnson said.

The groups that compiled the memo are asking Obama to remove all limits on taxpayer funding of abortion in the following way:

- “The President’s budget should strike language restricting abortion funding for (i) Medicaid-eligible women and Medicare beneficiaries (Hyde Amendment); (ii) federal employees and their dependents (FEHB program); (iii) residents of the District of Columbia; (iv) Peace Corps volunteers; (v) Native-American women; and (vi) women in Federal prisons.”

The pro-abortion memo has written out the actual text that Obama should use for Executive Orders and Presidential Memorandums, legislative language changes, and regulatory initiatives. It also provides Obama with a list of judicial vacancies to be filled with pro-abortion judges.

Johnson says this memo provides a clear list of what pro-life advocates need to immediately start working against as Obama takes over with his new administration.

Comments on the Obama website carrying the memo have shown strong pro-life opposition to this agenda. It is clearly not the case that this radical agenda is supported by a majority of Americans.

A poll sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops found that 82% of U.S. adults believe abortion should be limited or entirely illegal. Even among the minority supporting abortion for any reason, a third favored several of the currently existing laws limiting abortions.

Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for USCCB’s Pro-life Secretariat, said regarding the 55-page abortion memo, “Their agenda...won’t sell in the general public....Most people agree we should work to reduce abortions, but you can’t reduce abortions by promoting abortion and eliminating all the policies that have proven effective in reducing abortions.”

Washington State Citizens Ask for Medical Zones Free of Assisted Suicide

After Washington became the second state after Oregon to legalize assisted suicide, Washington citizens are asking for health facilities where doctors refuse to be involved in assisted suicide.

The Coalition Against Assisted Suicide (CAAS), which worked to defeat the November initiative to legalize assisted suicide, has received calls from across the state from Washington residents who are concerned about their health facilities or doctors participating in assisted suicide. Katie Martin of CAAS says that, in particular, “Senior citizens, people with disabilities and caregivers have contacted us to ask how to make sure the facilities in their communities remain safe harbors, ‘assisted suicide-free-zones.’”

Martin is encouraging citizens to contact health facilities, which are currently determining their internal policies, and ask them not to engage in the practice of killing patients. CAAS is offering a series of template letters that can be sent to hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, pharmacies, doctors and clinics to encourage them not refuse to participate in assisted suicide.

“We need as many people on this bandwagon as possible to help keep our loved ones safe,” Martin said. “Obviously, the more encouragement they receive to refuse to participate in assisted suicide, the better chance terminally ill and sick patients have of receiving truly good medical care and not lethal drug overdoses at the hands of their doctors.” CAAS can send sample letters to those interested in sending a letter to their doctor or to a medical center.
March 1 – “One day…our nation will…look back on what we have been doing to innocent human beings within their mothers as a crime no less heinous that what was approved by the Supreme Court in the ‘Dred Scott case’ in the 19th century, and no less heinous than what was perpetrated by Hitler and Stalin in the 20th.” Cardinal Edward Egan in Catholic New York, October 23, 2008

March 8 – “To claim the right to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia, and to recognize that right in law, means to attribute to human freedom a perverse and evil significance; that of an absolute power over others and against others.” Evangelium Vitae

March 15 – An Oregon court recently decided that a woman had the right to kill frozen embryos as part of the property in a divorce settlement. Commented a Catholic Medical Association physician, “It’s where the culture of death has led our society—through the courts—to truly devalue human life.” The Southern Cross, November 2008

March 22 – The prominent Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer clearly described the act of abortion: “The simple fact is that God certainly intended to create a human being and that this nascent human being has been deliberately deprived of his life. And that is nothing but murder.”

March 29 – “The Christian tradition from the earliest days reveals a firm antiabortion attitude. From apostolic times, the Christian tradition overwhelmingly held that abortion was grievously evil.” Charles Chaput, OFM.Cap., Archbishop of Denver

April 5 – “In today’s world of medical technology and pain control, the understandable fear of pain and death as one faces the end of their life should never lead to suicide—physician-assisted or otherwise.” Jennifer Popic, J.D., NRL News, Nov.-Dec., 2009

April 12 – “Nobody is a nobody; nobody is unwanted. All are wanted by God, and therefore to be respected, protected and cherished by us,” wrote Father Richard John Neuhaus. Is this not the message of Christ’s dying and rising,—not just for certain people but for all?

April 19 – Commenting on Washington State voters’ approval of physician-assisted suicide, the State Medical Association voiced its opposition “because our training and experience in the practice of medicine directs us to heal and comfort, not to cause death. NRL News, Nov.-Dec., 2008

April 26 – “Researchers Find Safer Methods to Reprogram Adult Stem Cells.” This recent headline describing adult stem cell research that does not involve killing embryos joins those announcing breakthroughs with adult stem cells from bone marrow, skin, and placentas. Meanwhile the world of embryonic stem cell research keeps demanding more money while producing negligible results.
More News

Obama May Be in The White House, But Pro-Life Believers Are Uniting in God’s Houses

By Ernest Ohlhoff, Director of NRLC Outreach

Barack Obama’s statements, party platform, and comments from his supporters have attacked the very fabric of the culture of life. His election will ultimately galvanize pro-life religious communities into a strong and cohesive force for life.

During my 35 years in the pro-life movement, I have worked with many different religious denominations. I believe that Obama’s anti-life philosophy is drawing together those who believe in a loving God, the Author of life, because they are now faced with a fearsome enemy who wants to dismantle the gains made by the pro-life movement over the past three and a half decades. The threat of raw blatant political power, now wielded by those who do not share our pro-life beliefs, have made a variety of religious groups and leaders realize that our only hope for protecting our pro-life gains is through unity in action and prayer.

Specific activities to energize and mobilize pro-life churches

1) Talk about the Obama Abortion Agenda over and over again. Once people understand the real danger posed by Obama’s agenda, they will be more likely to become actively involved in working against the Obama Agenda. Get further information at www.stoptheabortionagenda.com

2) Meet with Pastors: Ask for a meeting with each of the pastors in your community to explain the Obama Abortion Agenda including FOCA. Even pastors who may have been sympathetic to legalized abortion will probably rethink the abortion issue when threats to pro-life laws like the Hyde Amendment are explained.

3) Petition: Use National Right to Life’s Stop The Obama Abortion Agenda petition (see below) at every opportunity. Every single pro-life signer is critical to our ability to block the Obama Abortion Agenda including the so-called “Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). With your pastor’s permission, have information sheets and NRLC petition sheets available at your church.

5) Do the Cross Project: One of the most effective ways to make people think about the magnitude of abortion is the cemetery of the innocence project—a field of 172 small white crosses made of wood representing the number of abortions performed each hour in the United States. The crosses are placed in church or school lawns along with a sign that explains the meaning of the crosses. The Knights of Columbus often will take on this project.

6) Pray, Pray, Pray: Prayer can save innocent human lives. Organize a regular prayer event each month, or develop a prayer campaign for those who cannot attend prayer meetings but choose to pray privately. Spiritually adopt an unborn child in danger of being killed by abortion or pray for a particular legislator or judge.

Stop the Obama Abortion Agenda

Barack Obama and his allies in the pro-abortion Democratic leadership in Congress are taking aim at unborn children and their mothers with a radical pro-abortion agenda, including:

◆ Require taxpayer’s to fund abortion for any reason
◆ Force hospitals to fund abortion for any reason
◆ Fund organizations that perform and promote abortion
◆ Force employer health insurance plans to cover abortion
◆ Enact the so-called “Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)”—a bill that would invalidate virtually all state and federal laws limiting abortion, including parental notification laws, and make partial birth abortion legal again.

Learn more at www.stoptheabortionagenda.com

To request a petition form, go to website above, or call NRLC at 202-378-8842. Collect signatures on the petition from your friends, family and neighbors. Mail the signed petitions AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to National Right to Life,