
Michigan Nurses For Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G • Troy, Michigan 48084

August 2002

"An educational group for pro-life nurses."

September Meeting Preserving Newborn Umbilical Blood

On September 10, Mary Jo Pliska RN MSN will speak to Michigan Nurses for Life. Mary Jo is a former Harper Hospital CNS, who now works for Viacord, a company that banks umbilical cord blood for future use. Umbilical cord blood is rich in stem cells which can potentially be used to treat future cancers, genetic diseases, blood disorders and immune deficiencies. These cells can be used to treat the baby, siblings, parents, grandparents and even cousins. Cord blood is less costly to harvest than bone marrow, and often more compatible.

Over 45 life-threatening diseases can now be treated with cord blood stem cells. Since the first cord blood transplant was successfully performed in 1988 to treat Fanconi anemia (sister to brother transplant), thousands of cord blood transplants have taken place throughout the world.

Mary Jo will share her experiences with Viacord, give us the details of cord blood preservation, and explain how she educates families, physicians and hospitals about the exciting future for preserving cord blood.



Reserve This Date!!

Saturday, April 5, 2003
Michigan Nurses for Life
Spring Seminar

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital
Franco Conference Center

Speaker: Wesley J. Smith

Nationally recognized author, speaker, & attorney
on the ethics of cloning and stem cell research

MNFL Schedule 2002-2003

September 10th at 7:00 PM

Mary Jo Pliska RN MSN, Viacord
"Preserving Newborn Umbilical Blood
for Future Use"

November 12th at 7:00 PM

Jill Stanek RN, Christ Hospital, Chicago
"Live Birth Abortions"

January 14th at 7:00 PM

Diane Trombley RN BSN - "Futile Care"

March 11th at 7:00 PM

Ann Bellar RN MSN PhD candidate
"Alzheimer's Disease"

Michigan Nurses for Life meets bimonthly at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Bloomfield Hills, on the north-west corner of Lone Pine and Telegraph. 2.0 CEUs are offered at each meeting. **Fees:** MNFL member \$5; MNFL non-member \$10; general public - free.

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Michigan Nurses



For Life

Our Purpose:

...To raise the consciousness of the nursing profession to protect all human life from conception until natural death

...To form an educated core of nurses who can speak for their profession by acting as a community resource for life issues

...To promote public education and awareness about life issues on both ends of the spectrum, from abortion to euthanasia

...To uphold and defend human life in all stages and conditions of development

Michigan Nurses For Life

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Hours:

Monday through Friday
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Officers:

Ann Bellar, President
Patti Schmidt, Secretary
Alice Maher, Treasurer
Martha Jacobs, Membership

Board Members:

Linda Seng
Phyllis Sullivan
Mary Lou Temple
Diane Trombley

Editor: Susan Beardsley

November / "Live Birth Abortion"

On Tuesday, November 12, Jill Stanek RN, former labor and delivery staff nurse at Christ Hospital, Chicago, will speak about her experience with live birth abortions. Jill discovered that live birth abortions were being done at her hospital, and these infants were then allowed to die without any medical care.

At first she tried to privately dissuade hospital religious, medical and administrative leaders from continuing this practice. When she was not successful, she went public and has become a national figure in the effort to protect born and pre-born infants. She testified before the Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate and House Judiciary Committees.

Jill has been quoted in the national media on television, radio and in print. She has appeared on Fox News, the O' Rielly Factor, Hannity and Colmes, Chuck Colson's radio program, Breakpoint, Dr. Laura's TV program, and Father Pavone's radio show. She has spoken in defense of the Born Alive Infants Protection Act.

FYI: President Bush recently signed the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act providing legal protection to babies born alive following an unsuccessful abortion. See you at the Nov. 12th meeting!

Political Interviews By Martha Jacobs

As a member of MNFL, I assisted Right To Life of Michigan with their June interviews of political candidates running in the August Michigan Primary. The candidates interviewed ranged from circuit judge and county commissioner to state rep and state senator.

It seems that the RLM endorsement has become a respected prize sought by both prolife and non-prolife candidates. It was the job of the interviewers to ask pointed questions to clarify each candidate's true position on abortion exceptions, fetal stem cell research, assisted suicide, and the willingness to advocate legislation accordingly. Also included were questions to ascertain the vigor and health of each candidate's campaign, and their political credibility.

There were some candidates who were well informed and refreshingly committed to protecting life at all stages. I was amazed however, at the number of candidates who were uninformed on this issue and sadly believed that the propaganda they heard WERE all the facts. Unfortunately we cannot depend on the media to educate the public on ALL the facts regarding prolife issues. I was reminded that informing our world is a job we must do ourselves!

It was exciting for me to be able to ask these vital questions face to face with the men and women seeking leadership roles in our communities. The results of these interviews helped RLM decide whom they should endorse. It is important to learn the CORE beliefs of our candidates BEFORE we vote. How sad it would be to add local Judges or send new leaders to Lansing who would make decisions violating the sanctity of Life, and then fund them accordingly. These published endorsements are helpful to us in the process of making informed decisions. Check out the RLM web site at www.rtl.org, or sign up for their newsletter at prolife@rtl.org.

What is Cloning?

Cloning, also called "somatic cell nuclear transfer," is a laboratory method that allows the creation of a new individual who has only a single genetic parent. Cloning has produced live births in several species of mammals, including sheep, cattle, pigs, goats, mice and monkeys.

In cloning the nucleus (containing an individual's genetic code) is first removed from an egg cell and replaced with the nucleus taken from a body cell of a donor. (The donor can be anybody.) this combination of two cells is then stimulated or "activated," usually by an electric current. When successful, an embryo begins to develop—an embryo with virtually the same genetic makeup as that of the single parent who contributed the nucleus.

In November, the biotech firm Advanced Cell Technology claimed it had created several cloned human embryos, who died for unknown reasons after reaching only a six-cell stage. This firm and others hope to perfect techniques to keep the embryos alive for at least five days, at which point the embryonic body would consist of at least 150 cells, including a cluster of "stem cells"—cells that have the capacity to develop into many different types of specialized tissue. The researchers will then dissect the embryo to remove those stem cells—killing the embryo.

The head of Advanced Cell Technology, among others has said he thinks that it would ethically be acceptable to create embryos and keep them alive for up to two weeks. But other researchers are working to develop an "artificial womb," with the eventual aim of being able to artificially sustain an unborn child from conception to full term.

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International Task Force Lawyer Takes On "The Culture of Death"

International Task Force legal consultant Wesley J. Smith has a new book that is literally shaking the foundation of the ivory tower called "bioethics." In *Culture of Death: The Assault on Medical Ethics in America*, Smith exposes a bioethical movement that threatens patient welfare and undermines the principles of the Hippocratic Oath.

"Rather than believing in inherent human equality, most contemporary bioethicists measure the value of human life subjectively," Smith writes. "Instead of embracing the human community—which means all of us—they worry instead about the "moral community," which in theory and often in practice excludes some of us." "For most bioethicists," Smith explains, "basic human rights are not inalienable, but must be earned by criteria *they* have created. Thus, equality ceases to be a universal vision." And this fundamental shift, Smith shows, is changing American medicine "from a system based on the sanctity of life into a starkly utilitarian model in which the medically defenseless are seen as having not just a "right" but a "duty to die."

In his nationally syndicated column, *Village Voice* columnist Nat Hentoff wrote that Smith's new book documents the "lethal attitudes" taking hold in America "more fully and lucidly than any volume yet published on whether humanity will be able to remain humane." I have known and read Wesley Smith for a long time, and I have often cited him in this column because of the range, depth and accuracy of his research," Hentoff added. "Smith is trying to alert all of us to the falling barriers against killing...if only in self-defense, you ought to read *Culture of Death* and discuss it with your doctors and your family."

In a review for the national weekly *Human Events*, Mary Walsh called *Culture of Death* "a stunning indictment of the pro-euthanasia "philosophies" that have come to affect the practice of medicine... Read this book."

Adam Wolfson, who reviewed the book for the *Wall Street Journal*, wrote that Smith shows that "many bioethicists today are eager to bring about some version of (Aldous) Huxley's "perfect society, no matter how morally troubling the means or how questionable the ends." (*Culture of Death* is available at Amazon.com and bookstores everywhere.)

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ARE YOU REGISTERED?

Remember.....October 7th is the last day to register to vote in the November 5, 2002 General Election. Call the Secretary of State branch offices or your county, city or township for further information. Elect lawmakers with a commitment to protecting the sanctity of life through public policy. Please be sure to register and VOTE.



YOU can make a difference!



Check it out!



NEW! MNFL
Web Site

www.mnfl.org

Michigan Nurses for Life has a new web page. You will find information there about our organization, upcoming events, past newsletters, as well as links to other pro-life web sites. You will also be able to download the registration forms to join Michigan Nurses For Life or to attend the Michigan Nurses For Life Spring Conference. **Check it out!**

MNFL Mailing List



Michigan Nurses For Life is updating their mailing list. If you would like to add a name or delete a name from our mailing list, please call the office at 248-816-8489.

Upcoming Prolife Events

September 7th and 14th

Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Programs on "God's Plan For Growing Up" at Church Of The Holy Spirit in Highland. For further information contact Kathy Thomas (248) 889-0634.

Saturday, September 28, 2002

Right To Life - Lifespan Legislative Breakfast at Burton Manor, Livonia. Registration 8:30 AM. Breakfast 9:00-11:30 AM. Featured speakers: Dr. David Ramsey and Rep. Andrew Raczkowski. Call (248) 777-9090 for further details.

Sunday, October 6, 2002

Annual Life Chain Of Metro Detroit 2:00 to 3:30 PM. To participate call the Lifespan Office (248) 777-9090 for the location nearest you.

Saturday, December 7, 2002

Conference "Understanding The Gift Of Sexuality" University of Michigan Towsley Center, Ann Arbor. Registration 7:15 AM Conference 8:00 AM-4:45 PM. Contact Cathy Dowling, MD (734) 663-7256 for details. Contact hours for nurses were applied for through MNA.

Michigan Nurses

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For Life

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