
Michigan Nurses For Life

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

June 2007

"An educational group for prolife nurses"

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**"The Pro-Life Movement
will succeed only to the
extent that Pro-Life
people are willing to be
inconvenienced."**

*Douglas R. Scott,
From "Bad Choices:
A Look Inside Planned
Parenthood"*

Michigan Nurses for Life Fall Conference Stem Cells Save Lives: What's the Debate? Also: HPV and the New HPV Vaccine Saturday, September 8, 2007

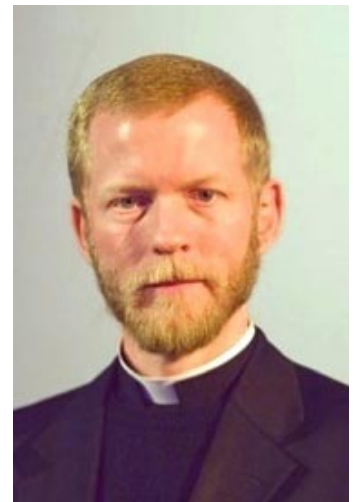
Michigan Nurses for Life in cooperation with Educational Center for Life will host their annual conference on Saturday, September 8, 2007 at Franco Communication Center at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac. See page 4.

Rev. Dr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk holds degrees in Philosophy, Biochemistry, Molecular Cell Biology and Chemistry, in addition to a PhD in Neuroscience from Yale University. Fr. Tad did post-doctoral research at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. He is currently Director of Education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

He has testified before members of the MA, WI, VA and NC State Legislatures during deliberations over stem cell research and cloning. He has given presentations and participated in roundtables on contemporary bioethics throughout the U.S., Canada, and in Europe. He has done numerous media commentaries, including appearances on CNN International, ABC World News Tonight, and National Public Radio.

Father Tad's presentation examines the basic biology of stem cells, considering the distinction between adult and embryonic stem cells as well as the ethical and moral questions regarding the use of embryonic stem cells vs alternative sources of stem cells.

Dr. Daniel Greene, MD, a graduate of Michigan State University Medical School is board certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology. He specializes in Women's Health Care and fertility awareness. Dr. Greene has special interest and experience in prolife issues.



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

Coventry Place - Suite G
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Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

248.816.8489 - Office

248.816.9066 - Fax

Email: info@mnfl.org

Hours:

Monday through Friday
10 AM - 3 PM

Officers:

Diane Trombley, President
Mary Anne Barrett, Secretary
Alice Maher, Treasurer

Board Members:

Martha Jacobs
Margaret Joyce
Barbara Lubinski
Phyl Sallee
Linda Seng
Phyllis Sullivan
Mary Lou Temple

Editor and Layout:

Susan Beardsley

President's Perspective: MNFL Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that Michigan Nurses for Life celebrates our 10th Anniversary this year!

We all had some pretty lofty goals when this group first began. We have expanded some of those and had to trim others but no matter what we did with our programs our primary goal was always foremost in our minds. We were determined to be a resource for the pro-life nurse. We recognized that pro-life nurses frequently work in a rather hostile atmosphere and we were going to be a source of information, education and support for him/her. We have continued to meet that goal. A quick glance at the history of our conferences and speakers will give even a casual observer an idea of the quality of our seminars and conferences.

As your president, I also sit on the board of National Association of Pro-Life Nurses which keeps me informed of nursing trends across the country and how they effect the pro-life nurse.

There is one very serious issue that bears discussion---membership. It is all very well and good to have goals and purposes established and to have your board working toward them but if membership falls, or fails to increase, the programs cannot move forward. We need new, young, actively involved nurses to become members of this organization. We need their energy, their ideas and their active involvement. Everyone is overworked, overscheduled and overstressed. Asking you to stretch yourselves any thinner than you already are is, I know, asking a great deal. However, we would really like to be here in 10 years, celebrating our 20th Anniversary!

So, if you have not renewed your membership in the calendar year of 2007. When you do, please give serious consideration to committing to some level of involvement in the organization—helping to plan a conference, being a member at large on the board (only three meetings a year!), helping to maintain our web site, reporting on whatever is going on in your facility that impacts on the pro-life nurse, helping with mailings, wearing a precious feet pin, submitting items for the newsletter, submitting pro-life articles to national and local nursing journals, helping to plan the newsletters, replacing outgoing board members—the list goes on and on.

Happy Anniversary to you all—may we enjoy many more!

Diane Trombley
President



Michigan Nurses For Life is 10 Years Old!

Michigan Nurses for Life was originally formed by a small group of prolife nurses including Mary Ann Heinrich, who wanted to learn more about current life issues and make a positive difference in the world...or at least their small part of it! At one point the group disbanded. Then in 1997 MNFL was revived by two dedicated prolife nurses---Mary Lou Temple and Jackie Blackwood, who brought the organization back to life and to its present tax-exempt status. Past presidents include: Mary Lou Temple, Sarah Ewing, and Ann Bellar. It's hard to believe a decade has passed.

Offering contact hours at our meetings was a big draw in the early years, because Michigan law required nurses to obtain 25 contact hours within a 2-year period. MNFL offered bi-monthly meetings for almost 10 years, but recently dropped these evening meetings because attendance had not grown significantly.

Educational Center for Life co-sponsored our events for a number of years. We are grateful for their partnership. It allowed us to acquire excellent speakers. Annual Spring conferences included:

- 1997 Ethical Decision Making from Beginning to End
- 1998 Death with Dignity...Hospice Care
- 1999 Speak More Effectively for Life Issues
- 2000 Ethical Directions for the Third Millennium
- 2001 Life's Beginnings...to be or not to be
- 2002 Abstinence...Just Do It
- 2003 Health Care Concerns in a Brave New World
- 2004 The Abortion Breast Cancer Link/The Morning After Pill
- 2005 STDs and Spring Break: What will be your Souvenirs?
- 2006 Futile Care Theory: The Duty to Die?
- 2007 Stem Cells Save Lives: What's the Debate?

Future plans will offer educational sessions, brown bag lunches or "journal club" meetings at hospitals or nursing schools---meeting with the nurses at work and school. Speakers are available to your nursing school or place of employment. Please contact our office at 248.816.8489. Topics include: stem cell research/cloning; end of life care; Alzheimer's disease; post abortion syndrome; and sexually transmitted diseases.

Several MNFL nurses are actively teaching health classes in local public and private schools sharing the STD/abstinence message. We are always looking for more volunteers; on-the-job training provided. Call MNFL or your local pregnancy help center for more information.

Hopefully, MNFL will attract more young, enthusiastic prolife nurses to share in the leadership of the organization. If you know an interested prolife nursing student or know of a nursing college looking for speakers, we would be glad to come and share our organization's goals and its prolife message.



Remember, YOU are the FUTURE of MNFL!
As well as those YOU tell about us!



Alice Maher, RN, MNFL Treasurer

National Speakers:

- 1997 Pamela Smith, MD
Nancy Valko, RN
- 1998 All local speakers used
- 1999 Kaye Lani Rae-Rafko
- 2000 Joel Brind, PhD
Nancy Valco, RN
- 2001 Brenda Pratt Shafer, RN
Richard Doerflinger
- 2002 Dr. John R. Diggs, Jr, MD
Leslie Unruh
- 2003 Wesley J. Smith
- 2004 Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, MD
- 2005 All local Speakers used
- 2006 Wesley J. Smith
- 2007 Rev. Dr. Tad Pacholczyk

Michigan Nurses For Life has been a frequent exhibitor at the following conferences:
Michigan Nurses Association
Michigan Students for Life
Catholic Medical Association



2005 Spring Conference "STDs and Spring Break: What will be your Souvenirs?"
L to R: Regina Chapman, RN, BSN, Phyllis Sullivan, RN, BSN and MNFL Board Member, and Julie Hage, Certified Abstinence Educator.

Embryonic Stem Cell Research

On June 7, 2007, Congress again passed legislation that would require taxpayers to fund life taking embryonic stem cell research. President Bush has stated that he will veto any legislation presented to him that seeks funds to promote research that uses human life as its subject material.



There is still so much confusion, some of it deliberate, surrounding stem cell research. Embryonic stem cells can only be obtained by destroying newly created human embryos. To date, research using such stem cells has created no treatments or cures for human disease. Adult stem cells are found everywhere in the body of born human beings. Collecting them does not cause the death of any person, born or unborn. To date, treatments and cures for over 70 human diseases have come from using adult stem cells. When people speak to you of stem cells, be sure to ask if they mean life giving, life affirming adult stem cells or stem cells obtained at the cost of a human life.

The New HPV Vaccine



Although denying pressure from constituents, Michigan legislators have decided that rather than requiring young girls be given the controversial HPV vaccine before entering the sixth grade, they will now require the schools to provide

information about the vaccine to the parents of these children. The decision would then be left up to the parents whether to obtain the vaccine for their daughters.

There are differing claims on just how safe and effective the vaccine is. The manufacturer, Merck, claims it is safe and effective but reports of unpleasant side effects continue. It is of interest that while suggesting the vaccine be given to 9 to 12-year-olds, only a few hundred 11 and 12-year-old girls received the vaccine during its testing phase. A larger study on 11 and 12-year-olds will not be completed until 2009.

There is also some question about the length of time the vaccine would be effective, with most agreeing that 5 years is the expected length. If the vaccine were given to 9-year-old children, the 5-year efficacy would expire when they were age 14 and the majority of 14-year-olds are not sexually active.

Michigan Nurses



For Life

Fall Conference

Saturday,

September 8, 2007

8:30 am - 1:15 pm

Franco Communications Center

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

44405 Woodward Avenue

Pontiac, Michigan 48341

Registration Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

MNFL Members - \$35

MNFL Non-members - \$40

Nurses: 3.5 Contact Hours

General Public - \$20

Students - \$10

Includes:

Informational Packet
& Continental Breakfast

Registration / Information:

Call: 248.816.8489

Email: info@mnfl.org

Print a registration form online:

www.mnfl.org

Please register by September 5, 2007.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Fee must accompany registration.

Make check payable to MNFL.

Remit coupon with check to:

Michigan Nurses For Life

Coventry Place Suite G

1637 W. Big Beaver Road

Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

See page 1 for conference details.

Partial Birth Abortion and the Supreme Court



On April 18, 2007 the United States Supreme Court upheld a federal ban on partial birth abortion. In a 5-4 decision, the court held that the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act signed into law in 2003 did not violate a woman's constitutional right to an abortion.

The decision was written by Justice Kennedy and supported by Justices Scalia, Thomas and Alito and Chief Justice Roberts. In the decision, Justice Kennedy stated that the ban did not impose an undue burden on a woman's right to abortion and that the lack of a "health exception" did not pose a constitutional problem.

The decision, while not banning all abortions, did contain some interesting, heretofore absent language. Justice Kennedy wrote, "It is self-evident that a mother who comes to regret her choice to abort must struggle with grief more anguished and sorrow more profound when she learns... what she once did not know: that she allowed a doctor to pierce the skull and vacuum the fast developing brain of her unborn child." In that brief sentence, Kennedy recognized that abortion does hurt women, that they do feel regret and that the entity within her womb is an unborn CHILD.

Obviously, those who support the decision were outraged. A "turning back of the clock" on woman's rights was predicted by organizations such as NARAL, NOW and Planned Parenthood. Actually, the full impact of the ruling is as yet unknown. There is action in some 39 states on laws banning the procedure. If the language in their laws is similar to that presented to the Supreme Court, bans will be put in place. Louisiana has already enacted legislation to ban the procedure on a vote of 100-0.

Unfortunately, in Michigan the 6th Circuit Court struck down our version of a partial birth abortion ban, the Legal Definition of Birth Act, as unconstitutional, stating it "overreached and would have banned pre-viable abortions, including the most common method of second-trimester abortion." Michigan Right to Life, the group that wrote and promoted the Michigan ban, stated that they were disappointed, but had deliberately "tested the waters" with the language of the measure. There is some sentiment for offering a ban using language similar to that of Ohio, which is expected to stand the constitutional test.

Reporting Abortion Complications

There are two measures of interest before our Michigan legislature. Rep. Kevin Green (R-Wyoming) has introduced a bill that would allow anyone with knowledge of an abortion complication to report it to the state Department of Community Health.

A Michigan law already requires doctors to report when a complication arises from an abortion but Representative Green said that based on recent statistics, he doesn't believe that all doctors, hospitals and clinics are obeying that law.

This bill would include penalties for people who file false reports about abortion complications.



The second item regards the Coercive Abortion Prevention Act. This measure was introduced by Michigan Representatives Emmons, Opsommer, Meekhof and Agema.

The measure would have set up criminal, civil and procedural protections against coercing a pregnant woman into having an abortion. The law was designed to serve primarily as an educator and a deterrent. The intent was to prevent coercion and the potential for physical violence that accompanies such coercion.

The measure was passed in the Michigan House a year ago, but died in the Senate. While it is regrettable that the measure did not pass it is hoped that the discussion generated by the bill did bring to light the dangers faced by women who would give life to their babies if not persuaded by third parties to do otherwise.

If in fact abortion providers are all about "choice" they clearly have a responsibility to be sure that the women in their places of business are really there of their own choosing.

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Troy, Michigan 48084



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For more information about Michigan Nurses For Life
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Email: info@mnfl.org or visit us on the web at: www.mnfl.org

**REMINDER: If you haven't renewed
your MNFL membership, please do so today!**

If you would like to add or delete a name from our mailing list,
please contact Michigan Nurses For Life at 248.816.8489. Thanks!

2007 Prolife Events

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Life Chain 2007

In addition to select designated Lifespan locations, the possibility of a location at your church or organization may be arranged by calling RTL-LIFESPAN at 248.478.8878.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2007

1:30 PM

RTL-LIFESPAN First Annual Cider Walk

Join RTL-LIFESPAN at Paint Creek Trail in Rochester for a 4.2 mile walk. Registration form and pledges due by October 1st. A complimentary picnic with cider and donuts will be followed by an award ceremony. For more information contact Gayle at 248.816.1546.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2007

9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Prolife Breakfast and Legislative Update

Burton Manor – 27777 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia
For further details call RTL- LIFESPAN 734.422.6230



SAVE THIS DATE!

Life Chain 2007

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Join Us!