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# Michigan Nurses For Life

1637 W. Big Beaver Rd., Suite G • Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

August 2001

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*"An educational group for pro-life nurses."*

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## Circle September 11th On Your Calendar

Michigan Nurses For Life will begin another year of excellent pro-life programs on September 11th at 7:00 p.m. Dr. John Damiani, DO, will be speaking on the subject of "Reversing the Abortion Culture". Dr. Damiani is the vice-chair of the Department of Surgery at Riverview Osteopathic Hospital.

2 CEU's will be awarded to all nurses attending this excellent program. We hope you will join us as we strive to gain knowledge about how to change the hearts of people throughout the Detroit area concerning the pro-life issues.

Please note we have a change in location this season. Michigan Nurses For Life will be meeting at the Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 1100 Lone Pine Road. The church is on the Northwest corner of Lone Pine and Telegraph Roads.

Michigan Nurses For Life would love to have you join our organization. Benefits of membership include discounts at the Spring Seminar and the bi-monthly meetings. Our meetings are a great time of learning, sharing with other pro-life nurses, and becoming prepared to speak out for all life issues.

Membership with MNFL is only \$20.00 a year. We ask for a donation of \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-member nurses for the evening meetings. Non-nurse guests are free, so invite a friend to come with you on September 11th.



## The Inside Story...

National Right to Life Convention

Unstable Promises  
of Embryonic Stem Cells

New MNFL Chapter  
Organizes in Bay County

## Upcoming Dates To Remember

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### September 11th at 7:00 p.m.

**Dr. John Damiani, DO**, will speak on  
"Reversing the Abortion Culture"  
at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

### November 13th at 7:00 p.m.

**Dr. Cheryl Dell Garret, PhD**, will speak on  
"Scientific and Social Implications of  
the Human Genome Project"  
at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

### January 8th at 7:00 p.m.

**Dr. Joseph Anderson, MD,  
Director of Henry Ford Hospice**,  
will speak on "End of Life Decisions  
Regarding Food and Fluids"  
at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

### March 8th at 7:00 p.m.

**Barbara Lubinski, RN, MSN,  
Director of Precious Children Respite Center**  
will speak on "Respite Care for Chronically Ill,  
Disabled Children" at Cross of Christ Lutheran  
Church

### March 23, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Michigan Nurses For Life  
Annual Spring Seminar** with  
**Keynote Speaker: Dr. John Diggs Jr., MD**  
"Abstinence: Just Do It!"  
Location: Kresge Hall / Madonna University

**Don't miss these important events!**

## 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

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### Michigan Nurses For Life

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1637 W. Big Beaver Road  
Troy, Michigan 48084-3540

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### Hours:

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

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### Officers:

Ann Bellar, President  
Patti Schmidt, Secretary  
Mary Bagazinski, Treasurer

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### Board Members:

Pat Leal  
Cheryl Richman  
Phyllis Sullivan  
Mary Lou Temple

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**Editor:** Susan Beardsley

## National Right To Life Convention

Six members of Michigan Nurses For Life traveled to North Carolina for the 29th Annual RTL Convention in late June. Joel Brind, PhD, Professor of Endocrinology at Baruch College, City University of New York, discussed his 1996 research which found at 30% risk overall for the development of breast cancer after induced abortion. Wesley Smith, from California, spoke on bioethics and the threat to the sanctity of life. In his new book "Culture of Death—The Assault on Medical Ethics in America", he described the demise of medical ethics and the "futile care theory", where hospital can refuse to provide life saving health care, even if the patient's family requests it.

Mark Pickup, from Alberta, Canada, who is disabled with Multiple Sclerosis, spoke eloquently at the prayer breakfast on "To Be or Not To Be: The Human Family". He discussed his views on the inherent worth of each person and voiced opinions against euthanasia and physician assisted suicide. Pat Boone shared several pro-life videos he has done, including "Let Me Live". Sean Hannity from Fox News "Hannity and Colmes", encouraged a non-judgmental approach to women in an unplanned preg-

nancy, offering them compassion and practical hands-on help. Father Frank Pavone, Director of Priests for Life and banquet speaker, encouraged the group to be united in the pro-life cause, persevering and supporting each other.

Many informative workshops were offered as well: After the Loss, There is Love and Healing - Project Rachel; Overcoming Pro-abortion Opposition within a Congregation; Economic Impact of Abortion: RU 486-Repackaging Abortion: Myths and Realities of Stem Cell Research; and Countering the Absence of Balance in the Media.

A meeting of the National Association of Pro-life Nurses was also held at the convention. A draft of a position statement on nursing organizations that condone abortion was discussed. (The American Nurses Association has a pro-abortion stance, but only about 8% of registered nurses belong to ANA, so their views do not represent all nurses.) An OB nurse from Wisconsin spoke about how her employer hospital intended to change its abortion policy to include unborn babies with life threatening diseases, and described how the other nurses successfully signed petitions against it. NAPN provided her legal counsel, advice and emotional support.

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## How To Make Your Pro-Life Voice Heard!

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**Write** to your congressmen / **Send** a letter to the editor

**Speak** to your neighbor and your fellow workers

**Put up** pro-life posters at your work place

**Use** pro-life bumper stickers / **Pray** for the pro-life movement

**Learn** about life issues / **Be prepared** with pro-life information

**Support** the pro-life candidates / **Portray** a positive pro-life image

**Be ready** to lend your help / **Vote** for pro-life candidates

**Donate** money towards pro-life advertising

**Present** pro-life talks at church and schools

**Volunteer** your time for pro-life organizations

**Be compassionate** to those in troubled places

# Unstable Promises of Embryonic Stem Cells

By Dr. David A. Prentice  
from National Right To Life News

A recent report from the Whitehead Institute, published July 6th in the *Journal of Science*, may explain not only why there are so many problems with cloning, but also foreshadows serious problems with using embryonic stem cells to treat human diseases.

The researchers cloned mice, starting not with a skin cell as the donor of the clone's genetic material, but instead with mouse embryonic stem cells.

In cloning, the genetic material is removed from an egg, and genetic material from the individual to be cloned is inserted into the egg; this forms the clone, and development can proceed from there.

Researchers previously had seen a higher cloning success rate using embryonic stem cells as the donor of the genetic material, though clones still showed abnormal development and a high death rate.

Embryonic development requires a complex orchestration, a ballet of cells being at the right place, a right time, reading their individual gene recipes in the correct sequence and dancing in concert with one another. The scientists from the Whitehead Institute analyzed expression of various genes during development and after birth (for those clones that survived), and found that there were wide variations and significant instabilities in how different genes were "turned on and off" in the mice.

It's important to understand that the instabilities that were found were not mutations in the

DNA—the "basic blueprint". The genetic material was the same in all of the mice. The genetic material, however, is only a "recipe book" which must be "read".

During development one cell reads some pages of the genetic material another cell reads others. These differences in what's being "cooked up" by the cells, as well as the timing and sequence of the recipes, is essential to get all of the normal cells and tissues of the body.

Since the mice had been cloned from mouse embryonic stem cells, researchers went back and analyzed the gene expression and the starting material—the stem cells themselves. The answer was startling: the gene expression "of the embryonic stem cell genome was found to be extremely unstable."

This may answer why the clones themselves were unstable, but it has more far-reaching implications.

Proponents of embryonic stem cell research in humans make extravagant promises of cures for a multitude of diseases, based on the assumption that they will be able to form any of the 210 tissues of the human body from a starting dish of human embryonic stem cells. In point of fact, they have had very few successes along those lines, even in the culture dish or in mice.

Instead, the cells tend to just grow, form tumors when injected into mice, or form a mixed collection of partially formed tissue. While the potential may be there to form any tissue (or certainly is there if the cells are left in the intact embryo), in practice it has been difficult to get the cells to "perform" in the laboratory.

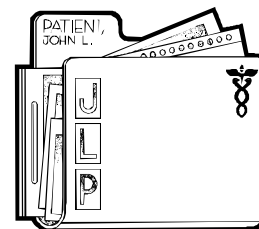
And as yet there are no cases of embryonic stem cell therapies, even being attempted in human patients. The results of the White-

head Institute study again may point to the reason for this—the extremely unstable state of the embryonic stem cell genome. More and more it is looking like it will be difficult for embryonic stem cells to make good on their promises of therapeutic benefits for human patients.

Contrast the relative lack of success using embryonic stem cells with the avalanche of recent success using adult stem cells and other non-embryonic sources such as umbilical cord blood.

Adult and cord blood stem cells are already being used successfully to treat patients with cancer, multiple sclerosis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, anemia, and immune deficiencies. They have also been used to grow new corneas to restore sight to legally blind patients and even to begin repair of cardiac damage after heart attack.

In animal experiments, adult and cord blood stem cells have been used successfully in experimental treatments for stroke, Parkinson's disease, heart damage, liver damage, and to reverse diabetes in mice. The adult and cord blood stem cells are already making good on what now seem to be unstable promises of embryonic stem cell research.



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## New MNFL Chapter Organizes in Bay County

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A new MNFL chapter has organized in Bay County, MI. On April 25th eight registered nurses gathered at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Bay City for an organizational meeting and round table discussion. Topics ranging from pending pro-life legislation to physician-assisted suicide were discussed and touching personal stories were shared. Elly Smyczynski, President of Bay City Right to Life gave an educational presentation on current procedures and laws that threaten human life in our society and community. She offered encouragement and full support for the new organization. She also showed a video with testimonials by health care professionals formerly involved in the abortion industry.

A membership drive is currently in process and will

continue through the summer months. Plans are already underway for two community educational offerings featuring local health care providers who will discuss current techniques and pharmacological advances in pain control and a doctor's view on the medical profession's current thinking on physician-assisted suicide. A quarterly newsletter will be available to members listing state and local events and meeting dates. The response has been very positive with 8 new members added in the last 4 weeks.

We look forward to working the MNFL membership throughout the state of Michigan to develop bold and confident defenders of human life through effective education.

**MNFL Welcomes the Bay County Chapter!**