

# Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute

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## Christmas 2010 Newsletter

### Editorial Contents:

- 1) In the United States, good stem cell treatments are, quite literally, only for the dogs. Read on to find out why.
- 2) To take back our culture we need to take back our youth. Our TOPP program, *Training Opportunities for Pro-life Professionals*, does just that. We have a \$20,000 challenge grant pledged for our training program. Read on to learn about the students we are training.

### Introduction:

Fox News recently carried a very touching story about the family of a fallen soldier, whose military partner, a dog named Lex, they wanted to adopt in their son's memory. Cpl. Dustin Lee lost his life in a shrapnel attack on March 21, 2007 and Lex suffered shrapnel wounds to his spine. He was not recovering and so the family sought the help of veterinarian Dr. Lee Morgan, who took adult stem cells from the fat in Lex's abdomen and injected those stem cells into the injured joints. Lex is predicted to make a full recovery, finally, in as little as 2 months.

In our last newsletter we introduced our training program, TOPP to you. The anti-life movement knows that in order to win the culture they must take our youth, and so they have worked for decades to indoctrinate through our schools, through company human resource programs, and other educational venues, and they have been successful. To turn biomedical research from a pervasive reliance on fresh aborted fetal tissue back to moral and effective scientific research, we must train the next generation and give them the tools to go out into the world and stand firmly pro-life. *Training Opportunities for Pro-life Professionals* does just that, but we need your help.

*Dr. Theresa Deisher, President, Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute*

### Why are good adult stem cells reserved only for animals in the United States?

The story of Lex is not an isolated one. The treatment used to repair damaged joints is reported to have an 80% success rate. (<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2010/11/26/stem-cell-treatment-gives-retired-military-service-dog-new-lease-life/>) In addition to Dr. Morgan's clinic, other companies such as VetStem have been providing 'self' adult stem cell treatments to beloved pets and race horses. In 2006 VetStem announced that over 1,000 horses had been treated with their 'self' adult stem cell therapy since January 2004 (<http://www.vetstem.com/pdfs/1000%20Horses%20Stem%20Cell%20Therapy%20042506.pdf>).

For the veterinary applications, the stem cells are taken from fat tissue in the animal, cleaned up, and then injected directly into a damaged joint or to a fractured bone or to a damaged kidney or liver. The price tag, as I understand it, is somewhere around \$5,000. On their website, VetStem references the human clinical trials that led to the founding of their veterinarian stem cell business. You might ask: if this can be done for my dog or cat, where do I go to get these good stem cell treatments? Unfortunately, the answer would be "Outside of the United States", to Germany or England or Portugal perhaps. Even more unfortunately, one might find a long waiting list to receive adult stem cell treatment in a reputable clinical trial or clinic.

If one could get these good stem cell treatments, what would the cost be? In some cases as little as \$10,000 to \$25,000 if one could get treatment in their hometown or state. But that is not yet possible in the United States. Like you, I find this mind-boggling! We need to rectify this injustice, and to do that we all need to understand why good stem cell treatments are only available for animals in the United States.

'Self' adult stem cell treatments use unpatented sources of stem cells that exist in each and every one of our bodies; in our blood, in our bone marrow, in our fat, and in other organs. Clinical trials using more 'selected' patented stem cells have not yielded results as positive as those which use these unpatented stem cell sources. Because the best stem cells cannot be patented, companies are not incentivized to conduct clinical trials with them. That is because without a proprietary position, a company could not recover their costs to conduct clinical trials that may cost as much as \$200 million dollars. \$200 million dollars for clinical trials to treat type I diabetics with 'self' stem cells is actually peanuts when we consider the billions of dollars that diseases like diabetes cost society each year.

Because the best stem cells cannot be patented, we absolutely require our tax payer dollars to pay for clinical trials so that we can get the good treatments that our dogs and cats now receive.

What organization should be funding these clinical trials? The NIH, of course. But they aren't. Instead, the NIH has wasted over a billion dollars of tax payer money funding embryonic stem cell research and research into alternative embryonic-like stem cells such as the reprogrammed adult stem cells many of you will have heard about.

Why do I say that the NIH has wasted this money? Embryonic and pluripotent stem cells have the ability to generate ALL of the cells and tissues of the body, and that's what they prefer to do. Trying to treat adults with pluripotent or embryonic stem cells is like calling in a general contractor to fix your kitchen sink. The general contractor may fix your sink, but you might not appreciate the window, the marble fountain and the shower stall he puts in your kitchen as well. You see, he is by nature a general contractor and not a plumber and just cannot help himself from doing his job of building everything. For embryonic and pluripotent stem cells, this undesirable building is called tumor, or teratoma formation, and the embryonic-like stem cells cannot help themselves. We cannot program this out of them.

Why would the NIH waste tax payers money? They have been duped, like so many of us, into believing the promises of pluripotent stem cells, promises which common sense tells us are empty. Truly, the Emperor is not wearing any clothes. In order to get Americans to accept embryonic stem cell research, scientists had to convince us that this was the ONLY way. They viciously suppressed good adult stem cell successes. As one of my colleagues recently stated, "adult stem cell therapies are the best kept secret in the [US]".

Why do scientists persist? As NATURE recently opined, embryonic and other pluripotent stem cells have led to a plethora of patents, and there is a pot of gold to be made by these scientists if they can get money for those patents. It doesn't matter if the patents ever help a human being - the money is made upfront (28 October 2010|VOL467|NATURE|1031). NATURE calls for the NIH to invest even more money in these useless stem cells so that these scientists and companies can make a buck. That is not the mandate of the NIH! "NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce the burdens of illness and disability" (emphasis added) (<http://www.nih.gov/about/mission.htm>). Nowhere in the NIH's mission does it say that tax payer dollars should be wasted to provide patent pay-out for scientists and private companies. **If 'self' stem cells are good enough for your dog, why aren't you good enough for them? Ask the NIH!**

## Meet Rachael and Tessa, two of our TOPP students, who need YOUR support.



Rachael Fox is a 21 year old Catholic who recently graduated from Trinity Western University/Redeemer Pacific College in Langley British Columbia, and whose career aspirations are to obtain her MD/PhD. During her time at TWU and RPC Rachael earned a BSc. in Chemistry with an emphasis in life sciences and a minor in Catholic Studies. Rachael was born and raised in Seattle where she was home educated and attended Holy Family Catholic Parish with her family of eight. During high school Rachael participated in the Running Start program, which allows motivated high school students to take classes at a local community college in order to earn college credit while simultaneously working towards the completion of their high school diplomas. It was during her time at Highline that Rachael first discovered her love of science, becoming enthralled with the study of the intricacies of the universe and particularly those of the human body. It was this appreciation for the beauty of creation that led her to pursue the study of life sciences at TWU which would enable her to delve into the mystery and complexities of the fundamentals of physical life. Since beginning classes at Trinity Western, Rachael has had the opportunity to gain exceptional laboratory experience in her field of interest. Included in these experiences, Rachael has spent time interning in a toxicology lab at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory as well as assisting Canada Research Chair Eve Stringham in her investigation of neuron outgrowth and migration. Through these studies, Rachael has come to realize that the acquisition of knowledge for the sake of knowledge is not enough, leading to her conviction that the knowledge we gain in the world of science must be used for the edification of those around us. To this end, Rachael plans to continue on in her education to earn an MD/PhD, specializing in regenerative medicine, with the firm hope that safe and moral regenerative medicine will, in the future, alleviate the suffering of many. Currently Rachael lives in Seattle where she attends Blessed Sacrament Parish and works with SCPI in their pro-life, adult stem cell research program.



Tessa's dreams have varied over the years, encompassing aspirations for law school, politics, and Doctors Without Borders, but one passion that she has held constant is her deep care for and conviction in the pro-life cause. Upon discovering a deeply founded fascination with the world of science, Tessa

entered Queen's University as a Biochemistry Major, graduating in 2010 with honors. With her devotion to the culture of life driving her forward, Tessa plans to earn her PhD in regenerative medicine and adult stem cell research, as well as earning a graduate-level bioethics degree with the goal of promoting specific change in both fields. As she explains, "we are in a time of research and medicine in which we face several major issues which are ethically disturbing: abortion, euthanasia, cloning, and the prolific use of embryonic stem cells and the consequence of these choices, a drastically lessening value for life." For these reasons she aspires to lead in navigation through these issues by combining her knowledge of science as well as Catholic ethics in a way that will guide decision making and lead in a movement towards safe, moral, and effective science. Tessa was born in India and has since lived in six countries located in three continents. As she experienced new places and cultures and was exposed to both the strengths and needs of many societies, her plans and dreams have been changed and shaped.

Through her time in different societies and cultures, Tessa identified a common lack of moral formation in healthcare as well as a lack of sufficient scientific background in the bioethics field, realizations that lead to her desire to affect change in the international forum of health science and bioethics. In order to gain practical experience needed for effective integration of these two fields, Tessa has taken this year to volunteer her time to work towards promotion of the culture of life in health science. Her decision to work for Sound Choice Pharmaceutical Institute was driven by her realization that here she would have "the privilege to work in a place which holds high moral and ethical standards without compromising on good research." At SCPI, she is given incredible experience in terms of techniques and analysis in the field in which she intends on pursuing graduate studies, and at the same time is provided with a chance to be directly involved in the scientific moral and ethical issues to which she plans to devote her future studies. Tessa currently lives on Mercer Island where she attends St. Monica Parish and works full time for SCPI.

Thank you to those who have already donated to fund this critical training program. We have a \$1000 donor, two \$800 donors, and two \$500 donors. However, as you can probably imagine, that is not nearly enough.

We have a \$20,000 challenge grant. Can you help us match this by January 20<sup>th</sup>? It costs \$28,000 to fund each training fellowship: that includes a salary just above WA State's minimum wage, and funds to pay for social security, Medicare and other unavoidable taxes. These young people are our future. We must insure that they are pro-life trained! God bless you and merry Christmas.

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