

The Stem Cells Road to Ruin

A Diary of Mankind in Despair

(Introduction)

Two men -- both paralyzed -- both dream of walking again -- both are ardent spinal cord research activists -- debating the practical worth of embryonic stem cells and human cloning at the New York Academies of Science before a roomful of science reporters.

“...I will finish by saying that I am appalled that Mr. James Kelly would simply say that I made seven inaccurate statements, without informing you what they were,” said actor Christopher Reeve in response to my charge that Reeve had misled the Senate and the American People in his Senate testimony over cloning.

“That is a low blow,” Reeve continued, “and I think it should be retracted or explained. And I also would like to know [why] he claims that there are trials going on using adult stem cells for spinal cord research. I highly doubt that. I would love to know where he thinks that's happening.”

“Sir, excuse me.” I said to the debate’s moderator at my first opportunity. “May I answer Mr. Reeve?”

“Why don't we come back to that?” said Craig Venter, Ph.D., former head of the U.S. Human Genome Project and CEO of a biotech firm, which soon after the debate announced plans to mix

human and animal genetic codes in cloning new forms of life. “Let's give the audience a chance to ask some questions.”

At the close of the debate, I turned my wheelchair to face Mr. Reeve, preparing to answer his question regarding where adult stem cell trials were taking place for ALS in adults and Spinal Cord Injury in infants.

“Mr. Reeve,” I said, “you wanted to know where adult stem ce...”

Suddenly, without warning, from behind me a large hand clamped tightly over my mouth, while an encircling arm pinned mine to my sides. While I struggled to free my arms and tear Dr. Venter’s hand from my face, a side door opened and Reeve was wheeled from the room. When I could finally splutter my outrage and look to others for support, fifty-five reporters gazed back in stony silence. Not a word of this reached the public; nor was I able to meet with Reeve.

Two men -- both paralyzed – both dream of walking, but with one big difference...one could use his hands and arms, the other could not – a cruel distinction that allowed the author of “The Stem Cells Road to Ruin” to spend thousands of hours personally exploring peer-reviewed science and contacting researchers directly to understand his findings, while placing the latter at the mercy of advisors who received financial support from Reeve’s foundation.

“The Stem Cells Road to Ruin” relates a perilous journey that all mankind is taking. In layman’s terms it presents the investigations and experiences of a paralyzed research activist who in 2001

urged President Bush to support embryonic stem cell research, only to become its most ardent opponent *not* because of abortion, politics, or religion...but because he hopes to walk again and for countless millions not to needlessly suffer.

“The Stem Cells Road to Ruin” presents firsthand observations from behind the front lines of *both* sides of the stem cell wars – including eye-opening perspectives resulting from conversations and correspondence with leading scientists and disturbing insights gained through the author’s close association with conservative bioethics national policy advisors, including key congressional aides, scientific members of the President’s Council of Bioethics, religious leaders, and nationally respected bioethicists.

“The ‘stem cells and human cloning’ moral debates should offer mankind immeasurable good,” says SCRR author James Kelly, “by revealing the practical potentials that our stem cell options offer for meeting mankind’s medical needs. Through these debates the public has a precious and unique opportunity to influence the goals of publicly funded science and how quickly they’re reached.”

Instead, “The Stem Cells Road to Ruin” reveals a tragic truth...that by setting our compassion against our conscience, our hopes against common sense, and our emotions against reason...by inflaming our social, religious, and political differences...the stem cell moral debates are being skillfully managed to divert the public’s attention away from considering its greatest danger – the unthinkable potential these issues offer for exploiting our lives, our loved ones, and our futures.

In “The Stem Cells Road to Ruin,” its author – a former White House surrogate spokesman for the Bush Administration’s ‘stem cells’ policy – shows us where the road started, where it’s going, and why research-related industries have spent over a hundred million dollars in advertising to encourage us go there. By offering us the information and perspectives that were withheld from Reeve, “The Stem Cells Road to Ruin” offers the key to unlocking the moral stalemate in the nation’s stem cells debates...thereby avoiding a colossal threat to Man and its future.