

The Stem Cells Road to Ruin

A Diary of Man in Despair

Outline

Chapter One: Lives in Limbo

Goal: Emotionally connect stem cells and research issues to the reader's life, hopes, and future.

- Present my life before and after suffering Spinal Cord Injury to illustrate that the stem cells and cloning debates are not about somebody else. These issues deeply concern *all* our lives and the future of man.
- Show why I began to question the claims and goals of research-related industries (long before stem cells and cloning became matters of public debate).
- Show how I came to suspect that the fruits society wants from science are *not* the ones that scientists want to pick, using personal anecdotes and direct interaction with scientists.
- Explore emotional and psychological factors that influenced my initial support of embryonic stem cell research – to confirm that my *pro-cures* position is *not* driven by religion or politics, and to reveal how we're *all* being manipulated by public relations experts who know which buttons to push.

Chapter Two: On Second Thought...

Goal: Present my reasons for *beginning* to question the practicality and ultimate purpose of the push for embryonic stem cell and cloning research.

- Why should the public pay science to try to overcome safety problems linked to ES therapeutic use (tumor & teratoma formation, epigenetic instability, and rejection) when our bodies already have multiple sources of 'replacement' cells. [If adult stem cells could *not* repair our organs and replace our cells we'd all be *dead*, since none of the body's cells can reproduce through 'mitotic' cell division more than eleven years.]
- Cell replacement cannot "cure" degenerative diseases such as ALS, Diabetes, Parkinson's, and Alzheimer's, since the *cause* of disease would still remain.
- Of the multiple sources of stem cells we have for meeting cell replacement needs, ES cells have the most problems, the longest road to travel, are expected to be the most expensive, and are the least certain of ultimate success.
- According to the international *Institute of Science in Society*, ES cells offer the greatest patent and research potentials to basic researchers, and the greatest profit potentials to biotech.
- Regarding the use of ES cells as research tool for studying disease: According to the ISIS, the "overwhelming" causes of most human disease are lifestyle or environment. For these causes it is difficult to imagine that studying ES cells will point to cures.

- Virtually all the medical ‘promises’ of ES cells are linked to cloning, which (aside from other moral and practical issues) requires turning women into egg factories at the risk of their lives and health. This lack of concern for women led me to question claims that the push for ES/cloning is motivated by altruistic concerns for Man.
- For diseases that *do* have genetic roots, such as Juvenile Diabetes, it is unlikely that studying flaws in embryonic development will point to cures in adults – this is because embryonic genetic expression and the environment of the embryo no longer exist in adults. A far more practical and effective approach would be to study, understand, and correct *existing* defects in cells or organs that cause disease in adults.
- Embryonic stem cells *definitely* have important research uses. But their practical worth is far less than advertised. Yet colossal resources (\$3 Billion in CA, \$1 Billion in NY, \$1 Billion in IL, \$750K in WI, and more) are being steered in their direction. Why? More importantly, will *any* medical advances that threaten these billions be allowed to reach the public? (See chapter seven.)

Chapter Three: A Sacred Trust Betrayed

Goal: Present the information, events, and personal experiences that caused me to contact those opposed to ES/Cloning to offer my ‘pro-cures’ support in their efforts.

- C. Reeve was misled and used by his scientific advisors to make seven scientifically false statements to the US Senate.
- Arthur Marriot, a paraplegic with SCI of the hotel ‘Marriot’ family, asked for my help in getting \$325,000 back from ES researcher Dr. John McDonald, who C. Reeve claimed led him to believe the false statements in his testimony. McDonald led Marriot to believe he (Marriot) was paying for a study using ES cells to cure primates in Pakistan. The study never took place. I referred Marriot to another scientist, who advised him to contact the FDA and the university’s IRB. Marriot contacted several lawyers, who declined the case due to conflicts of interest with McDonald’s institution. Marriot killed himself last May. (I have the correspondence between Marriot and McDonald, Marriot and his lawyers, and a copy of the cancelled check to McDonald along with a letter acknowledging its receipt.)
- While Marriot was trying to get his money back from McDonald, I learned that a family in Chicago (John and Jon O’Connor) gave McDonald their life’s savings (\$50K) in the hopes that McDonald could cure their son. McDonald’s plan was to clone humans with frogs in South America.
- I debated the practicality of cloning with Reeve at the NY Academy of Sciences in May of ‘02.’ During this debate I tried to tell Reeve of an adult stem cell clinical trial for ALS and SCI in Turin Italy (at Reeve’s request). When I tried to speak I was placed in a bear hug and physically muzzled by the debate’s moderator, Craig Venter, Ph.D., former Head of the US Human Genome Project. While I fought to pull Venter’s hand from my mouth, Reeve’s handlers wheeled him from the room and 50 reporters looked on in stunned silence. (Science reporter Antonio Regalado of *The Wall Street Journal* can verify this account.)

Chapter Four: Hidden Victims

Goal: Present disturbing instances of medical advances being blocked or suppressed by leading proponents of ES & cloning in science, industry, and the FDA.

- L.A.'s Dr. Michael Levesque is sued by Stanford's Irv Weissman (of Stem Cells Inc., named future Director of Stanford's \$50M cloning institute) to prevent Levesque from expanding his already successful use of adult stem cells (in treating Parkinson's patient Dennis Turner) in a full clinical trial.
- The FDA shuts down an Atlanta clinic's access to cord blood, which had been intravenously given to 46 ALS patients, reversing the paralysis of 17. The FDA had previously given its permission for this treatment to proceed (I have the letters). A bi-partisan group of US Senators and Representatives *twice* ask the FDA to allow the patients compassionate access to the treatment; the FDA refuses. (I have these letters too. I initiated the second request at the request of the patient's families.) For more on this visit www.cures1st.blogspot.com
- The Junior Diabetes Research Foundation pays researchers to attempt to *disprove* the promising work of Harvard's Denise Faustman, which points to a permanent, low cost *cure* for Type I Diabetes. Meanwhile, the JDRF aggressively promotes long range ES research to Congress and the public. Faustman's work, which was recently confirmed by two labs, may be applicable for *all* autoimmune disease (according to Faustman, Lee Iacocca, and Larry Raff of the Autoimmune Disease Research Foundation). More importantly, it suggests that simply removing the *cause* of disease may, for certain conditions, allow the body to spontaneously regenerate *without any external assistance*.

Chapter Five: Hope Misdirected

Goal: Reveal the reasons why ES cells & cloning offer hugely impractical medical potentials for major medical conditions that serve as the basis for their hype – revealing that their actual “promise” is to divert crucial resources for decades away from practical causes for hope.

- Diabetes
- Heart Disease
- Parkinson's Disease
- Alzheimer's Disease
- ALS (Lou Gerhig's Disease)
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Stroke
- Spinal Cord Injury

Chapter Six: Spinning Science

Goal: Present research studies that *had* to fail, or whose results were twisted to supposedly “prove” that alternatives to ES cells cannot do what others claim. Present common and exceptional media misrepresentations of stem cell issues and facts

- Two studies culture human adult stem cells with mouse embryonic stem cells, producing mutated cells. This is presented as “proof” that adult stem cells are unsafe for medical use. (At this time adult stem cells were regularly used to treat over sixty human medical conditions.)
- To “prove” that adult stem cells are ineffective for heart disease applications, Stanford’s Irv Weissman (see chapter 7-1) conducts an adult bone marrow stem cell (BMSC) study for myocardial infarct (heart attack) that totally ignores previously successful protocols established by others. (Nine of ten clinical trials around the world report dramatic improvements in patients treated with their own BMSCs.)
- MITs Rudolf Jaenisch uses adult stem cells from a cloned newborn mouse to cure a mouse of genetic immune defects, after the mouse twice rejected cells derived from its own cloned embryonic cells. This is hailed as “proof” that therapeutic cloning works. (Human ‘bubble’ children have already been cured using this technique with their own stem cells.)
- Cord blood stem cells are shown to have developmental abilities equal to embryonic stem cells, but without the safety drawbacks. A headline in the *Washington Post* hails this report as an “embryonic stem cell breakthrough.”
- ACT (and Robert Lanza) announce the creation of ES cell lines by culturing single cells removed from days old embryo, which did not harm the embryos. The truth is later revealed that *every* embryo was destroyed while removing multiple cells from each and that *none* of the cells were cultured alone.
- [Note: these are a few examples of a long list of blatant media distortions and research deceptions.]

Chapter Seven: Scandals and Frauds

Goal: Reveal unreported details concerning Korean Cloning Scandal, ACT & Robert Lanza’s false claims of creating ESC cell lines without killing embryos, MO’s Amendment 2, and NJ Cloning Law.

- Hwang’s 2004 and 2005 cloning claims, and their political effect California’s Prop. 71 and on proposed cloning bans in Europe, Japan, at the United Nations, and at State and Federal levels in the U.S.
- Relate the coercion of Hwang’s female lab assistants for their eggs and concealment of payments made to others for theirs, which first called attentions to Hwang’s questionable ethics...and first called global attention to the very real potential cloning offers for exploiting women. Add to this point recent offers of large payments to American women for their eggs.
- Relate the exposure of Hwang’s claims as frauds by America’s Gerald Schatten, who previously filed world patent claims to Hwang’s cloning technique.
- Explain the effect of the fraud’s exposure on patent disputes between Hwang and Schatten
- Explain the effect of the fraud’s exposure on Western cloning aims, which could be crippled if Hwang is granted worldwide patent rights. (Hwang had said he didn’t want “his” techniques to be developed with foreign capital, and that *he* would handle the cloning and the world could conduct its stem cell studies on *his* proprietary cells,

meaning that cloning scientists in California would have a lot of money available and nothing to do.)

Chapter Eight: The Business of Science

Goal: Big business – the colossal and compelling financial realities of science, research related industries, the FDA and NIH, stem cells, disability, and disease.

- 1980 law (Bagh-Dole) permits private patenting of publicly funded research.
- Present numbers of bio-medical patents filed and licensed to industry compared to numbers of new drugs and treatments.
- NIH researchers conceal millions in personal royalties from publicly funded research
- Hidden financial ties revealed between FDA advisors and industry.
- Present financial interdependence between basic research, academia, Pharma and BIO, and disease.

Chapter Nine: Allies with Agendas

Goal: Reveal sharp contrasts between the words of actions of national political and religious leaders who supposedly oppose ES and human cloning research on moral grounds.

- Despite the Administration's supposed moral opposition to ES and human cloning research, all six of Bush's health- & science-related Federal appointees have been industry-approved advocates of ESC and human cloning R&D.
- Despite the Administration and Pro-Life Movement's proclaimed support for umbilical cord stem cell R&D, AG John Ashcroft (who claims to be pro-life) ordered treatments immediately stopped using cord blood transfusions for advanced Lou Gerhig's Disease (ALS) upon learning that the treatment had begun reversing the paralysis of the husband of a Federal Appellate Court judge.
- Within weeks of CA's Proposition 71 being passed by an alarming margin (including its support by large numbers of Catholic and Conservative voters), national leaders in the Catholic Church, the Republican Party, the Pro-Life Movement, in the Bush Administration, and in the President's Council of Bioethics suddenly discovered 'moral' alternate forms of ESC and human cloning research they had previously rejected. This action crippled the social alliance opposed to ES & human cloning research, since it betrayed the trust of patients who opposed ES/cloning on practical grounds – and it betrayed feminist groups who opposed human cloning over its potential for exploiting women for their eggs.

Chapter Ten: The Road Ahead

Goal: Planning ahead – look down the road at projected global realities regarding population, pollution, and social infrastructure, considering their implications concerning stem cells, science, medicine, and man.

- increasing global and national incidences of Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Cancer, SCI, Stroke, TBI, Heart Disease, Diabetes, MS, etc.
- skyrocketing health care costs
- the effect of environmental pollution of world food production and health
- population projections around the globe with respect to health care and social infrastructures
- statements issued by scientists to the public and in discussions among themselves sharply conflict – a recent pro-ES/cloning public announcement claimed that restrictions on ES research are keeping science from extending the average human life span to 150 years. Meanwhile, a scientific conference in the U.S. awarded its “Distinguished Scientist of 2006” prize to Dr. Eric R. Planka for advocating the extermination of 90% of humanity with the Ebola virus (to save the environment).
- According to employee of the US Health and Human Services, conferences between scientists and governments of the U.S., Europe, the U.K. and Russia have determined that population management through the *continued existence* of disease may be desirable. According to this same source, when offered US medical assistance and training to improve the survival rate of women giving birth, Egypt's Minister of Health reportedly said, “We already have too many people, why would we want them to live?”
- Does the global push for ES/cloning promise to extend human life and therefore *increase* world population, or is it a *population management* solution aimed at diverting massive resources *away* from practical solutions to medical needs?

Conclusions – Proposals for a “Pro-Cures” Future:

Goal: Tie the book's content together, concluding that society *needs* to reconsider the role of science in the march of Man, and urging that the public support 1) a total ban, both nationally and internationally, on all forms of human cloning. 2) Needed reforms in publicly funded science and government regulation of research-related industries. 3) Passage of research-related laws that confirm society's respect for all forms of human life – including the aged, the sick and disabled, and prenatal life – making it illegal to kill or exploit any form of human life for science.

We need a publicly funded science that serves mankind, not the reverse.