

RIGHT TO RECOVER

Winning the Political and Religious Wars Over Stem Cell Research in America

Authored by Yvonne Perry

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DID YOU KNOW...

...that the term “embryonic” stem cell research is a misnomer? The research is not performed on a fish-like embryo; it is conducted on a cluster of cells known as a blastocyst.

...that fertilization and conception are two separate occurrences? Many people believe they are one in the same and when an egg is fertilized it is automatically an embryo. With in-vitro assistance as part of the reproductive process, fertilization can occur inside or outside the body. Conception can not.

...that adult stem cells and those found in cord blood and amniotic fluid do not have the same properties? They can not do the same things. They have distinctively different abilities.

...that there is a difference between an embryo and a blastocyst? The term embryo is used to refer to the first two months of development after *conception*. Conception cannot occur in a laboratory. Only blastocysts, eggs, sperm, zygotes and morulas exist in fertility clinics.

...that there is Biblical proof that blastocystic stem cell research is a gift from our Creator? Scriptures show that according to John 1:3, “All things are created by God and without Him nothing has been created that was created.” Stem cell technology used to create healing is part of God’s perfect plan. We have the privilege to carefully use the knowledge and abilities we are given.

...that the Bush Administration’s “right-wing” stance on blastocystic stem cell research is based on an opinion that cannot be supported by scientific fact or scripture? Those in opposition have no biological basis for believing that stem cells derived from 3- to 5-day-old fertilized eggs cultivated in a laboratory are human embryos.

...that America was not founded upon religion? That may be what you were taught, but proof of such is not reflected in the writings of our founding fathers. In fact, the first six American presidents were actually opposed to it. The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States prevents legislation that establishes a national religion by Congress or one that prefers or supports one religion over another.

Media Contact: Chuck Whiting

Info@WhitingPublicity.com

(615) 242-9857