

From the Desk

Just when I think I have heard it all - the FDA is considering to allow Genetically Modified Children! Yes, that is right, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) met to discuss allowing the creation of human beings with three genetic parents to proceed to clinical trials. That is, whether to allow human "three-parent embryos" to be implanted and possibly grow to term.

There are currently two different techniques for manufacturing three-parent embryos, the purpose of which is to combat mitochondrial disease. The first, being developed at Britain's Newcastle University, is known as pronuclear transfer (PNT) and swaps DNA between two fertilized human eggs, intentionally destroying multiple embryos in the process.



The second, which has been done by scientists in Oregon and New York and is likely what the FDA is looking at, is called maternal spindle transfer. This technique swaps material between the mother's egg and a donor egg before fertilization.

This is not just another reproductive technology. This kind of gene therapy is genetic modification that will be inherited. So, what the FDA is really considering is whether or not to proceed with genetically engineering future generations without their consent.

On top of the fact that, like traditional IVF, the creation of new human life in this way (out of the marital embrace and in the science lab) is immoral in and of itself, there is also no telling what kind of effect this will have on the children it produces.

The science is still very new. Three parent fertility as a concept was only thought of about 14 years ago. And both of the techniques described above were only first successfully used to create human embryos less than five years ago.

Animals created through these methods have had significant health issues, and in Oregon, genetic abnormalities were detected in half of the human embryos created with manipulated eggs. So, there is a good possibility that we may simply be trading mitochondrial disease for other abnormalities, if babies are ever born using either of these techniques.

And that's a big if.

In Newcastle's initial report, most of the embryos were so mangled in the reprogramming process itself that they couldn't even start dividing. In order to get better results with this technology in humans, more research must be done, which means more and more tiny human lives lost and destroyed.

The concerns don't end there. The massive amounts of "donated" human eggs that will be needed to manufacture children in this way is worth considering. As are legal issues such as: who would be the legal parents of a child generated from genetic material obtained from multiple donors and would such a child have the right to know the identity of all his gene donors?

The FDA's chief concern, of course, is safety and some members of their advisory committee seemed to agree that there was not sufficient evidence in animal models to suggest that it was safe to proceed in humans.

"There's overall great concern for the well-being of these kids," Evan Y. Snyder, the panel's chairman, said at the meeting, summarizing some of the thoughts of the members. "I think there was a sense of the committee that at this particular point in time, there was probably not enough data either in animals or in vitro to conclusively move on to human trials ... without answering a few additional questions."

Preventing mitochondrial disease is a good and noble goal, but this is not the way to go about doing it. Allowing germline modification for mitochondrial replacement to proceed sets a dangerous precedent and may only be the beginning.

We are on a threshold. Will we move forward in genetically-engineering our children? This move, it is fair to say, will forever change the course of humanity.

More than 40 other countries have passed laws or signed treaties banning human genetic modifications that can be inherited. Let's hope, in this case, at least, that the United States will not live up to her reputation of being the "Wild West" of reproductive medicine.

This radical experimentation on children must be stopped before it gets any worse. Please continue to pray and contact our government officials to let them know your opinion of the error of this science experimentation.

Joan Gehret, President

Judge Allows Ohio Late-Term Abortion to Stay Open

As of January 21, the Ohio Department of Health affirmed its order to shut down abortionist Martin Haskell's Sharonville clinic, the Lebanon Road Surgery Center, for failure to meet Ohio medical standards. Specifically, Haskell's clinic operated without a transfer agreement with any area hospital and was unable to identify any doctors within the region that wanted to assist his abortion business. On January 31, Hamilton County Judge Jerome Metz has stayed an order issued by the Ohio Department of Health to close a late-term abortion clinic in Sharonville, Ohio, operated by Martin Haskell.

Judge Metz issued his 3-page ruling today that places

conditions on his suspension of the ODH closure order.

"As a condition of that suspension, [Haskell] must maintain adequate safety policies and procedures for admittance of any patient to a hospital as may be needed. In furtherance of that condition, [Haskell] shall report any change in its current procedures or protocols or any change in its back-up doctors to the Court, to the Department of Health, and to the Department's counsel of record. If it appears that any such change would be substantially detrimental to public safety, the Department may petition to alter or terminate the suspension," stated the order.

Haskell has operated his Lebanon Road Surgical Center

abortion clinic, also known as Women's Med Center, in Sharonville, without the required hospital privileges or hospital transfer agreement, a fact that is not contested by either Haskell or the ODH.

Instead, his abortion clinic had been allowed to operate under a variance issued by the ODH allowing him to substitute an agreement with various other physicians to provide hospital care to Haskell's abortion patients suffering complications that require hospitalization. Haskell's abortion clinic is not equipped to handle serious abortion complications. It was the revocation

of this variance and his operating license that led to the appeal and today's suspension of the ODH closure order.

Haskell submitted an affidavit in support of his motion to stay the closure order stating that he provided late-term abortions and abortions to poor women. He complained that only one abortion clinic that does not specialize in those abortions would be left in the Cincinnati area.

Haskell will continue to operate his Sharonville abortion clinic pending his appeal of ODH's denial of licensure for his abortion clinic, a process that could take months.

Ohio House Passes ORTL Adoption Reform Legislation

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Wednesday, January 29, 2014, the Ohio House of Representatives passed Ohio Right to Life's adoption reform legislation, Substitute H.B. 307, with an historic bipartisan majority vote. This adoption reform will eliminate unnecessary costs, protect birth parents and adoptive families, prevent fraud and minimize the bureaucracy in the Ohio adoption process. This pro-life legislation now heads to the Ohio Senate.

"Ohio Right to Life sincerely thanks Representatives Jim Buchy and Dorothy Pelanda for sponsoring our pro-life initiative," said Mike Gonidakis, President of Ohio Right to Life. "This legislation will ensure that the adoption process is less daunting for birth parents, and more enabling to Ohio families wishing to adopt. A mother placing her child for adoption is truly the most selfless act imaginable. We owe it to birth mothers and adoptive couples to ensure our laws are compassionate and supportive."



At present, middle-class and low-income Ohio families are essentially unable to adopt due to the accumulation of expenses of the adoption process. The adoption reform legislation targets these expenses by increasing the current \$1,500 tax credit to \$10,000.

"There are Ohio families who want to adopt but are

simply hesitant to do so because the current process can be burdensome, emotional, and at times - heartbreaking," said Representative Dorothy Pelanda. "This bill, in essence, will help to dramatically reduce the costs and eliminate the unnecessary time and emotional burdens while still respecting the rights of birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptive children alike."



The legislation's provision regarding the pre-birth notice system will smooth the process of adoption for birth parents. This system allows a birth father to declare or deny parental rights before the birth of his child if the birth mother chooses an adoption plan. Furthermore, because of the emotional strain of allowing an adoption decree to be challenged for up to 12 months, the provisional time will be shortened to 60 days - thus eliminating the prolonged burden for all parties involved.

"I was pleased to work with the Ohio Right to Life on a bill that not only protects life - but provides more opportunities for women in this state," said Representative Jim Buchy. "House Bill 307 is a bill that benefits Ohio women and families. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to gain support for this bi-partisan bill."

OPINION: Abortion's a political, moral issue

The Enquirer's recent editorial ("Keep politics out of abortion," Jan. 28) on abortion restrictions created a straw man argument. The pro-life community understands abortion is a medical issue. The procedure surgically ends a human life. It is also a political issue. The state Democratic Party reinforced that reality when its candidates for statewide office recently introduced themselves to Ohioans as lockstep abortion advocates.

The editorial also suggested that pro-life legislators failed to engage the public in debate over new abortion clinic regulations. Pro-life and pro-choice advocates alike offered testimony last year for and against these budget provisions. Opinions through testimony were received by our elected officials in the General Assembly. That truly is democracy in action.

This is fundamentally different however from the Roe v. Wade ruling in 1973, by which seven men on the United States Supreme Court invalidated abortion regulations across the country. Of course, the public was not afforded the opportunity to debate the merits of this issue in 1973 and for the past forty-one years, America has lived with the Roe decision, which caused the deaths of 56 million babies.

Nevertheless, our corrupted Supreme Court's identification of abortion as a so-called "right" does not invalidate all other rights. In other words, just because you can have an abortion, doesn't mean you can violate conscience rights and force taxpayers to facilitate the abortion.

If one wants to argue that abortion is a medical issue without arguing its morality, then we need to consider aspects of health and safety as we do with all other medical issues. All clinics should be closed (regardless of the procedures they perform) if they cannot operate in a safe and healthy manner - that is at the foundation of supporting women's health. Abortion clinics must be held accountable for operating with rusty and moldy equipment—as the Center for Choice of Toledo was last year. They should not be held to lower health standards just because they perform abortions.

To turn a blind eye to such practices harms the very people you claim you want to protect - Ohio's women.

As for transfer agreements, these are also essential to ensuring women's health. Abortion clinics, which are identified as ambulatory surgical facilities by law, are simply unequipped to take care of a woman's full health if something goes wrong during the abortion. That is why they are required to contract with a hospital. Thus, transfer agreements do address a medical issue.

Indeed, abortion is a medical issue. But if we are going to use politics to regulate all other medical issues, we must remain consistent and do the same for abortion. Thus, it is also a political issue. Finally, as I stated at the beginning, abortion truly is a moral issue—an issue which has snuffed out more than 56 million lives in the United States alone.

by Mike Gonidakas

Video: Moms of Ex-Girl Scouts Say GSUSA CEO Lying About Planned Parenthood Link

by Steven Ertelt — LifeNews.com

The moms are responding to a YouTube video released by Anna Marie Chavez last week that was intended to quell a growing protest movement coming during the crucial annual cookie-buying season.

Chavez claims the Girl Scouts “have not now [nor] ever have had a relationship with Planned Parenthood.”

The moms’ video says this is “blatantly false” and points out how the Council level of Girl Scouts “has a long history of working with Planned Parenthood, with documented examples as far back as 1972 and continuing to 2013.”

The moms’ video asserts the Girl Scouts have consistently defended their relationships with Planned Parenthood, including former Girl Scout CEO Kathy Cloninger who admitted such relationships on the Today show in 2004. The video also points to a 2011 interview between a Girl Scout spokesman and CNS News in which the spokesman confirmed “that local councils may partner with whomever they choose, including Planned Parenthood.”

The pro-life movement has been concerned for a number of years about the ties between the Girl Scouts and the Planned Parenthood abortion business, which date back to the 1970s. Although the Girl Scout organization maintains that it takes “no position” on the issue of abortion, parents, churches, and pro-life activists have long complained of the pro-abortion slant of the Girl Scouts’ resources, role models, and affiliations.

The links between the Girl Scouts and Planned Parenthood are longstanding, with a Girl Scouts CEO and individual troops admitting as much.

The ties between the two groups have been questioned ever since former Girl Scouts CEO Kathy Cloninger admitted on NBC’s The Today Show: “We partner with many organizations. We have relationships with...Planned Parenthood organizations across the country.”

Then, in a national survey, seventeen Girl Scouts councils admit to partnering with Planned Parenthood; many other councils refuse to answer the survey question. Of the 315 Girl Scout councils in the U.S., 17 councils reported having a relationship with Planned Parenthood and its affiliates, and 49 reported they do not — or 25% of all Girl Scout troops responding to the survey. The other 249 refused to disclose any

possible relationship.

In 2010-2011 Girls Scouts in New York partnered with Planned Parenthood for a sex-ed program, “Real Life. Real Talk.” The program website touts their partners (link has since been removed): “Real Life. Real Talk. is proud to count the following organizations, faith communities and companies as partners: ...Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways.

In June 2013, the Girl Scouts promoted a video honoring abortion activists and having pro-abortion advocate Amy Richards as their guest speaker. Because the MAKERS narrative is so unabashedly pro-abortion, it strips away all pretense that the Girl Scouts USA is ‘neutral’ on the issue of abortion.

The Girl Scouts have been criticized for their involvement in the May, 2013 Women Deliver Conference, an international event that included “safe and legal abortion” among its overarching themes. It documents its role in the planning and facilitating of the December, 2012 Bali Global Youth Forum and the outcome declaration, which demands youth access to abortion.

For fourteen years, the Girls Scouts in Waco, TX co-sponsored a sex ed conference with Planned Parenthood. “It’s Perfectly Normal” a book written by a Planned Parenthood executive was given to all children in attendance says abortion can be “a positive experience.” And in January 2012, Girl Scouts employee Renise Rodriguez wore a “Pray to End Abortion” t-shirt during off-duty visit to her Tucson Girl Scout office and was ordered to her to turn the shirt inside out or leave.

In 2012, the Girl Scouts joined with Planned Parenthood to head a UN conference. The Catholic Church is investigating the undertaking into the ties between the Girl Scouts and Planned Parenthood and other pro-abortion groups.

The Girl Scouts have also promoted pro-abortion elected officials. Fresh on the heels of Girl Scouts USA (GSUSA) sharing a recommendation for pro-abortion Texas gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis as a 2013 Woman of the Year via their official Twitter account, the organization suggested pro-abortion HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius as a woman “with courage, confidence, and character.”

Meanwhile, the new national spokeswoman for the Girl Scouts, Kelly Parisi, is the former spokeswoman for a pro-abortion organization — one founded by Gloria Steinem.

THE

COLLINGSWORTH

FAMILY



**BENEFIT CONCERT FOR
DARKE COUNTY
PREGNANCY HELP CENTER**

**Friday, April 25, 2014 6:30 PM
at the Lighthouse Christian Center**

**Artist Circle \$30.00
General Admission \$20.00**

**For Tickets Call Lowell Lavy:
937-423-4836**



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Meetings:

- ★ Next meeting: April 1st, May 6th
- ★ Time & Place: 7:30 P.M.; 105 W. Third St., Greenville.
Public parking behind Bach to Rock.
- ★ Who: Anyone interested in the sanctity of human life
- whether the unborn, elderly, handicapped - and
willing to protect it, are encouraged to attend.

Projects:

- ★ **Paper Drive Fund Raiser** – First Saturday of each month from 9-11 AM at the Osgood Park just off St. Rt. 705 on the west side of town. Listen to WCSM @ 96.7 for weather related cancellations. Collection will take place the following week of a cancellation. For more information call 419-582-2554.
- ★ **Collinsworth Family Concert** – Friday, April 25, 2014 at Lighthouse Christian Center at 6:30 PM. For tickets call 937-423-4836.
- ★ **Mother's Day Rose Sale** – Sunday, May 11th. Details to follow.

Darke County Right to Life Officers

President: Joan Gehret, North Star
Vice President: Justin May, Frenchtown
Secretary: Mary Ann Dirksen, Sharpsburg
Treasurer: Jeanette Barga, North Star

Pro-Life Resources:

- ★ **Darke County Pregnancy Help Center** - The center, located at 105 W. Third St., is open on Mondays from 2:30 to 7:30 PM. Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays they are open from 2:30 to 5:30 PM. The office phone number is 937-548-2731.
The center also has a free 24-hour hotline, which can be reached at 937-547-1112.
- ★ **After Abortion Help** - The archdiocese sponsors Project Rachel for healing after abortion. Call 937-492-4449 or 513-588-0080 or e-mail: pfeirstine@cinci.rr.com. Silent No More is another resource. 1-800-395-4357 or 866-482-5433.
SilentNoMoreAwareness.org.
- ★ **Knoweldge Is Empowering** - To reach a trained, caring professional, call 1-800-712-4357 or visit their website at: knoweldgeisempowering.com
- ★ **Natural Family Planning Instructors**, Gregg and Brenda Hemmelgarn, Phone: (419) 678-4293.
- ★ **One More Soul** - Fostering God's Plan for Love, Chastity, Marriage, and Children. 1846 North Main St., Dayton, OH
Phone Numbers: (937) 279-5433 or (800) 307-7685.
www.OneMoreSoul.com