

RESOURCE ROUNDUP

Volume 7, No. 12

The Hippocratic Resource

(A Statewide Organization of Louisiana Physicians, Dentists, Nurses, Therapists and Other Health Professionals)

11620 Rue de Tonti

Baton Rouge, LA 70810

Tel: (225) 769-7496 or (225) 635-6554; FAX: (225) 766-4089 or (225) 635-2173

www.LaDocs4Life.org or www.LaHealthProfs4Life.org

"I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked ... I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce an abortion"

Dear Colleague:

With Thanksgiving now just a pleasant memory, and hoping that, at least collectively, we didn't gain too much excess poundage, we would like to wish each and every one of you a very Blessed and

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR 2008 A.D.!!

In past years, we have provided an annual report with a year-end issue, but must apologize that it is not yet completed – travel and other matters related to W.A.K.'s brother's death a half-continent away have taken their toll on time that is already short; we will have to postpone presenting it until next year. Nevertheless, we have taken concrete steps to obtaining 501(c)(3) status from the IRS (the Louisiana Department of Revenue finally issued us a "Revenue Account Number"), and we can hope to complete filing before year's end. 2007 has been successful in other respects as well, including what can probably be considered an early Christmas present regarding ethical stem cell use in medicine (see below), although many questions yet remain. Updated abortion data reports have been prepared (see Website under "Abortion Statistics"). Finally, we have been given yet another opportunity to count the blessings our Creator has endowed on us, particularly in the U.S.A., and particularly during this season!

W. "Al" Krotoski, M.D., etc. and Francis Rinaudo, Jr., D.D.S., Co-founders

Stem Cell Research Breakthrough

In what has been hailed as a stem cell research breakthrough of dramatic proportions ("This is ... the biological equivalent of the Wright brothers' first airplane"), scientists in laboratories in Japan and Wisconsin appear to have produced pluripotent, embryonic-like stem cells from both mouse and human somatic cells – without any need for killing human embryos. This has effectively handed California – which went into hock to the tune of \$3 billion to fund *embryonic* stem-cell research – the equivalent of the live baby in an abortionist's worst nightmare, rendering its immoral *raison d'etre* ethically even less supportable.

Building on their work with mouse adult fibroblasts (Takahashi and Yamanaka: *Cell*. 2006; 126:663-76), the same Japanese group reported the generation of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) from adult dermal human fibroblasts by retroviral transduction of four defined transcription factors. "Human iPS cells were similar to human embryonic stem (ES) cells in morphology, proliferation, surface antigens, epigenetic status of pluripotent cell-specific genes, and telomerase activity. Furthermore, these cells could differentiate into cell types of the three germ cell layers in vitro and in teratomas." (*Cell*. 2007; 131:861-72). (Continued on next page)

Roster Changes

Deleted to preserve promised member privacy.

www.LaDocs4Life.org or www.LaHealthProfs4Life.org

Although one of the transcription factors used in the original work increases tumorigenicity, the group was subsequently able to generate both mouse and human iPS without this factor, as was an American group from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, headed by James Thomson (who isolated the first human embryonic stem cells in 1998).

If this work can be developed to the level of clinical use, it will have solved the conundrum of the killing of human embryos for their stem cells. It

is currently (if unofficially) being hailed as “something of a Holy Grail” by Rev. Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., a knowledgeable Catholic scientist/bioethicist, and as “a win-win” by Richard Doerflinger of the secretariat for pro-life activities at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Two major *caveats*, however: one is the propensity for tumorigenicity of such cell lines; the other, the big “If” at the beginning of this paragraph.

KUDOS



At our 4th Gathering, **Joan Dowd, R.N.** was awarded the first-ever award presented to a member by *The Hippocratic Resource*. The Award, in the shape of a large crystallite heart, was presented to Mrs. Dowd for her several decades of Pro-Life work in the Baton Rouge area as a health professional, including as President of Baton Rouge Right to Life, a chapter of the Louisiana Right to Life Federation; as Chairlady of St. Thomas More Respect Life Committee; and as a member of the Catholic Diocese’s Respect Life Board, among others.

***Resource* Co-founder to be Honoree at New Orleans Proudly Pro-Life Dinner**

The New Orleans Pro Life Education Foundation has announced that W. “Al” Krotoski, M.D., Co-founder with Francis Rinaudo, Jr., D.D.S., of *The Hippocratic Resource*, is to be the Honoree at the 2008 Proudly Pro Life Dinner benefit, to be held on **Thursday, January 17, 2008 at the Chateau Country Club in Kenner**. A cocktail hour at 6 p.m will be followed by a gala filet mignon dinner with all the trimmings, at \$100 per plate. Keynote address is by Scott Klusendorf, President of the Life Training Institute.

The Foundation provides support for Respect for Life efforts not just in the New Orleans area, but also throughout Louisiana. *The Resource* – which has itself been a beneficiary – has a table reserved at the Dinner, with two places still available. If interested in attending, please call Peg Kenny of the Louisiana Right to Life Federation at (866) 463-5433. The Country Club is located at 3600 Chateau Blvd. in Kenner, just north of West Esplanade. A map and/or directions are available at www.Mapquest.com.