

A Historic Adult Stem Cell Hearing

On Wednesday, May 21, 2008, the Texas House of Representatives held a historic hearing on adult stem cell research. No legislative panel in Texas has ever before focused exclusively on adult stem cell research with such depth.



Cured using adult stem cells — Joseph and Darlene Davis' son Joseph, Jr., was cured of sickle cell anemia with adult stem cells from his younger brother's umbilical cord blood. Dr. Beverly Nuckols' granddaughter, Veronica, was cured of a fatal immune disorder with adult stem cells from umbilical cord blood.

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Adult Stem Cell Research heard invited testimony on the current and future state of life-saving adult stem cell research and treatments in Texas and the potential for commercializing that research.

"We commend the House leadership, including Speaker Tom Craddick, Appropriations chairman Warren Chisum, and subcommittee chairman Betty Brown for convening this hearing," said Texas Alliance for Life's executive director, Joe Pojman, Ph.D. "They are wisely moving Texas beyond the protracted debate about the ethical problems of creating and destroying human embryos for research into the wide, wide world of adult stem cell treatments that are already saving lives. Because obtaining adult stem cells does not harm the donor and because the adult stem cell treatments are highly effective, we strongly support the state's continued investment in this promising technology," added Dr. Pojman.

Among the testimony were Texas patients who have been successfully treated using adult stems for sickle cell anemia, cancer, and heart disease. In none of these cases had embryonic stem cells been used.

Embryonic stem cells have at least two significant disadvantages. They involve grave ethical problems because obtaining embryonic stem cells requires the destruction of human embryos. Also, they have not proved effective at treating patients, and the FDA has not approved their use.

14th Annual



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80% of the net proceeds will help Texas Alliance for Life change hearts and save lives by educating the public about the sanctity of life and defending pro-life public policies in the courts. Our educational projects include our educational *Life Matters* newsletter, voters guides, our speakers bureau, and funding for the Texas Rally for Life. Recently, we successfully defended the constitutionality of Texas' Prenatal Protection Act in the highest state criminal court. That law recognizes the personhood of unborn children and protects them from violent crimes of assault and homicide.

20% goes to local pregnancy assistance centers in Texas. To date, we have given over \$64,000 in grants.