

May 2001

Letters to the Editor

Catholic Physicians' Guild

Follow this and additional works at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq>

Recommended Citation

Catholic Physicians' Guild (2001) "Letters to the Editor," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 68: No. 2, Article 1.
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol68/iss2/1>

Letters to the Editor

(Reprinted from the Shreveport Times, January 27, 2001)

To the Editor:

I wish to congratulate Steve Casey on his Jan. 18 column explaining why he and his wife disregarded the doctor's recommendation of "Advise termination of pregnancy." We, too, received similar advice when my wife became pregnant with our first child 58 years ago. She had tuberculosis, which was usually fatal at that time, because there was no treatment but bed rest and pneumothorax. We chose another doctor who felt like we did: A child in the uterus should not be killed. We had a healthy daughter and three more children. My wife has been cured for 50 years.

**- Joe E. Holoubek, M.D.
Shreveport**

Note: Dr. Holoubek is a long-time member of the CMA. His letter to the Shreveport Times is re-printed here because of the importance of the subject.

Stem Cell Research

To the Editor:

The people supporting research on stem cells are in a dilemma. Stem cells are derived from human embryos and the embryos must be killed for their stem cells. These cells can develop into any kind of cell and are promising as cures for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Many, like Michael J. Fox, who argued for such research before Congress say that we should proceed else these embryos will be discarded. Why not use them for good rather than destroy them? In other words, even if the means are evil, well, since we didn't initiate the process, why can't we use these embryos for their cells?

NIH funding guidelines get around the ban by permitting federally funded scientists to conduct research on cells removed from embryos by privately funded scientists *(Continued on next page)*

Visit the Catholic Medical Association

on the World-Wide Web

www.cathmed.org

The cells come from discarded frozen embryos from fertility or abortion clinics. The dilemma is like using the research of Nazi scientists who placed Jews in ice water, used various means to restore their temperature and used this information on their pilots forced to land in icy waters of the North Sea. Should we use the knowledge obtained that way? The difference is that the research on Nazi victims has been done and recorded. Stem cell research is an ongoing process in continuous need of added victims. The outrage is a continuous one in which we directly or indirectly participate while the Nazi outrage was done and is over with.

NIH funding guidelines are only a wink and a nod to the profiteering of private scientists and clinics which supply these embryos. There will be a lot of money to be made for fertility and abortion clinics. Whether you do research directly on such embryos or have others do it and give you the cells is the same immoral action. If I use a gun on a victim or give another a gun (money) to do the job, I am still seriously morally responsible for the result. Ends and means are in the same genus.

— Peter J. Riga
Houston, TX

SUBSCRIPTIONS

are available from

The Linacre Quarterly
P.O. Box 757
N27 W23957 Paul Road
Suite 202
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Regular: \$60 per year; Foreign: \$62.50 per year
Back issues (when available) \$10 per copy