



Nebraska Coalition
for Lifesaving Cures

The Newsletter of the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures
March, 2011

First patient to get stem cell therapy comes forward

In the six months since scientists announced they had infused a drug made from human embryonic stem cells into a partially paralyzed patient's spine, the identity of the recipient has been shrouded in secrecy. Recently, rumors began circulating in Internet chat rooms that details about the closely guarded experiment were finally about to be revealed. Now, a 21-year-old Alabama nursing student who was paralyzed from the chest down in a car crash in September has come forward to identify himself as the volunteer.

[Full Story in *The Washington Post* \(04-07-2011\)](#)



Honoring support of research

Colleen Wuebben of Omaha, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, said she had been nervous about speaking Monday before a luncheon of influential citizens, elected officials, medical researchers and others — but awoke in the middle of the night and the words flowed. She wrote them down exactly as she wanted to say them, happy to have found inspiration. She went back to sleep, arose in the morning and reached for her notepad. It was so illegible, she said, that she couldn't read it.

Her quip, which drew a big laugh at the Happy Hollow Club, was a light-hearted introduction to her own struggle and a serious and often controversial topic: embryonic stem cell research. She spoke at a luncheon sponsored by the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures, which supports such research.

[Full Story in *The Omaha World-Herald* \(04-05-2011\)](#)

Stem cells were God's will, says first recipient of treatment

When Timothy J. Atchison regained consciousness, he was drenched in blood and pinned in his car on the side of a dark rural road. Then, Atchison said, he realized that his legs felt strangely huge — and completely numb. He was paralyzed from the chest down.

He faced another shock just seven days later: Doctors asked him to volunteer to be the first person to have an experimental drug made from human embryonic stem cells injected into his body.

[Full Story from *The Washington Post* \(04-15-2011\)](#)



U.S. adults favor taxpayer-funded research

Seventy-two percent of U.S. adults say they favor expanding federal funding for embryonic stem cells research, a survey indicates. A survey, commissioned by Research!America, questioned 32 percent self-described conservatives, 32 percent of self-described liberals and 35 self-described moderates -- and 78 percent say federal funding for health research is important for job creation and the economy.

The survey indicated 61 percent say accelerating the nation's investment in research to improve health is a priority, 76 percent say global health research and development is important to the U.S. economy and 84 percent say it is important that the government play a role in research for prevention and wellness.

[Full Story from *United Press International* \(04-07-2011\)](#)

Imperfections mar hopes for reprogrammed stem cells

When scientists announced 5 years ago they could reprogram ordinary skin cells into behaving like embryonic stem cells, religious conservatives and others who opposed the use of stem cells cheered the advance. But while they have proven to be a powerful new way to study human disease, the reprogrammed cells -- known as induced pluripotent stem cells, or iPS cells -- are no substitute for embryonic stem cells.

[Full Story from *Reuters* \(03-31-2011\)](#)

Researchers make reprogrammed cell breakthrough

University of Wisconsin researchers are one step closer to the ability to treat individuals with genetic disorders using their own reprogrammed cells — a finding that carries potential applications in gene therapy treatments for diabetes, cystic fibrosis and other illnesses. Morgridge Institute for Research scientist Sara Howden said the study, published Monday in a National Academy of Sciences journal, found human stem cells can be reprogrammed to correct genetic defects and produce new generations of cells that also carry the correction.

[Full Story from *The Badger Herald* \(04-04-2011\)](#)

Stanford Biobank pioneers new way to donate embryos

When couples undergo in-vitro fertilization (IVF), they must decide what to do with the embryos left over from the treatment: store them, throw them out or — an increasingly popular option — donate them to research. A new procedure developed by the School of Medicine enables couples to make the decision to donate without interacting with the researchers themselves.

[Full Story from *The Stanford Daily* \(04-11-2011\)](#)

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