The Newsletter of the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures
February, 2012

Support LB1089 to Build the Cancer Research Facility at UNMC

LB1089, proposed by Senator John Nelson, would have the state contribute $50 million toward the $370 million multi-faceted new cancer center to be built at UNMC. The state contribution would be used toward part of the cost of the $110 million research tower of the project. The project also includes a multidisciplinary outpatient clinic and a hospital tower with 108 beds dedicated to oncology patients. More than 85% of the total costs of the project will come from private funds. The project would create about 1,200 new jobs by 2020 and add $100 million annually to Nebraska's economy. The new cancer facility would help the medical center toward its goal to become a National Institutes of Health Comprehensive Cancer Center.

If this is important to you, you can express your support for the cancer research facility by sending an email this week to the Legislature's Appropriations Committee. Consider telling the Appropriations Committee that you support LB1089, the Cancer Research Project. Email your comments to any/all of the Appropriations Committee members listed below.

Appropriations Committee	Email Address	Phone Number
Senator Heidemann,Chairman	lheidemann@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2733
Senator Conrad	dconrad@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2720
Senator Fulton	tfulton@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2734
Senator Hansen	thansen@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2729
Senator Harms	jharms@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2802
Senator Mello	hmello@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2710
Senator Nelson	jnelson@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2714
Senator Nordquist	jnordquist@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2721
Senator Wightman	jwightman@leg.ne.gov	402-471-2642

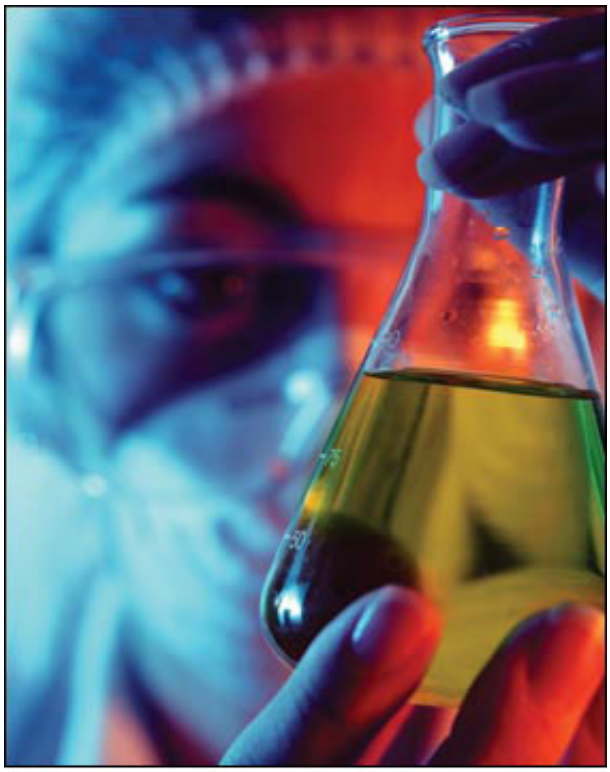
First Hints That Stem Cells Can Help Patients Get Better

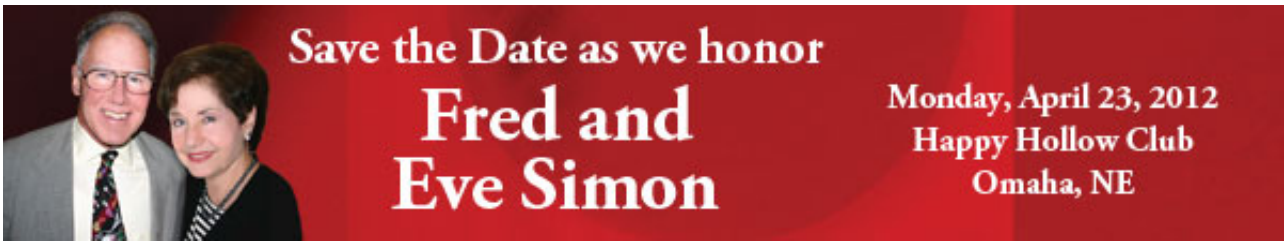
Two women losing their sight to progressive forms of blindness may have regained some vision while participating in an experiment testing a treatment

made from human embryonic stem cells, researchers reported today.

The report marks the first time that scientists have produced direct evidence that human embryonic stem cells may have helped a patient. The cells had only previously been tested in the laboratory or in animals.

Full Story from *Shots: NPR's Health Blog* (1-23-2012)





ACT Publishes First Report of Embryonic Stem Cell (ESC)-Derived Cells Transplanted Into Patients

Advanced Cell Technology announced that Phase 1/2 clinical data published in The Lancet as an early online publication demonstrate the safety of ACT's human embryonic stem cell (hESC)-derived retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells for the treatment of Stargardt's macular dystrophy (SMD) and dry age-related macular degeneration (dry AMD). Results were reported for two patients, the first in each of the Phase 1/2 clinical trials. In addition to showing no adverse safety issues, structural evidence confirmed that the hESC-derived cells survived and continued to persist during the study period reported. Both patients had measurable improvements in their vision that persisted for more than four months.

Full Story in *ACT Press Release* (1-23-2012)

Advanced Cell Technology Continues to Test its Experimental Eye Treatment on Patients

Advanced Cell Technology Inc. continues to test its experimental eye treatment on patients, saying today that fourth patient worldwide to receive a transplant of retinal pigment epithelial cells underwent the procedure Tuesday in California. The patient was treated at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles under a study evaluating the cells as a treatment for Stargardt's macular dystrophy. Advanced Cell reported today the surgery was successful and the patient is recovering.

Full Story from *Worcester Telegram* (1-25-2012)

Embryonic Signal Drives Pancreatic Cancer and Offers a Way to Kill It

Pancreatic cancer is a particularly challenging one to beat; it has a tendency to spread and harbors cancer stem cells that stubbornly resist conventional approaches to therapy. Now, researchers reporting in the November issue of Cell Stem Cell, a Cell Press publication, have evidence to suggest there is a way to kill off those cancer stem cells. The target is a self-renewal pathway known for its role not in cancer but in embryonic stem cells.

Full Story from *Science Daily* (11-23-2011)

A trifecta of wins against stem cell tourism: 60 Minutes, FDA, and China

In a matter of just a few days we saw three big positive moves against stem cell tourism that will no doubt make a big difference even if there is a long slog ahead against dubious stem cell clinics trying to exploit patients.

Full Story on *Knoepfler Lab Stem Cell Blog* (1-12-2012)

Nebraska Coalition
for Lifesaving Cures