



Nebraska Coalition  
for Lifesaving Cures

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

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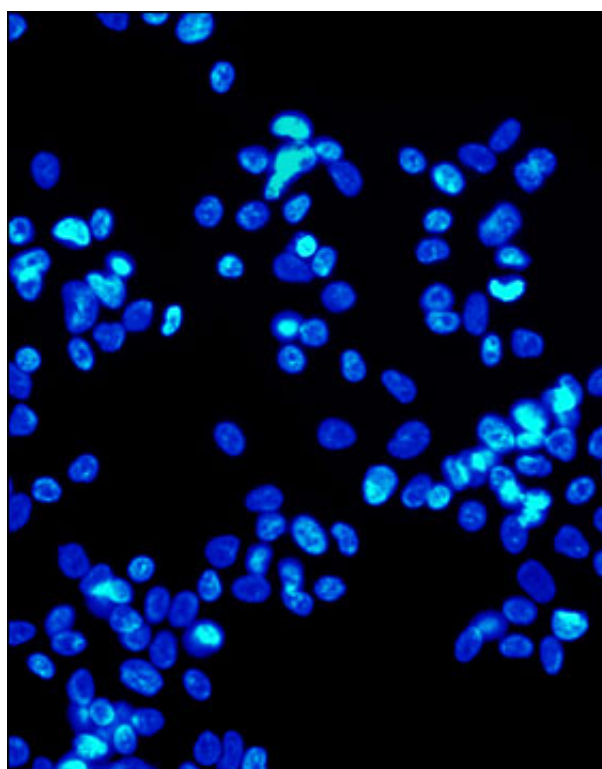
## Appeal overturns stem cell ban

Embryonic stem cell research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and other institutions nationwide will go forward after an appeals court ruling April 29.

In a 2-1 decision, a panel of the U.S. court of appeals in Washington overturned a judge's order that would have blocked taxpayer funding for stem cell research. The judges ruled that opponents of taxpayer-funded stem cell research are not likely to succeed in their lawsuit to stop it.

Nebraska proponents and opponents of the research reacted in predictable ways to the ruling.

[Full Story in the Omaha World-Herald \(04-29-2011\)](#)



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## Saving Sight, Testing Faith

Stem cells, it seems, have become almost as ubiquitous in medicine as stethoscopes. Yankees pitcher Bartolo Colon received injections of stem cells from his own fat and bone marrow to treat an injured shoulder and elbow, his doctor recently revealed. Meanwhile, a Texas hospital is testing whether stem cells from a patient's bone marrow will improve the effectiveness of cardiac bypass surgery. It's enough to suggest that the bitter religious, ethical, and political battles over stem cells that began in 1998 were pointless. If cells harvested from patients themselves can treat disease, perhaps there's no need to use ones obtained from human embryos—with all the questions that raises.

[Full Story in Newsweek \(05-15-2011\)](#)

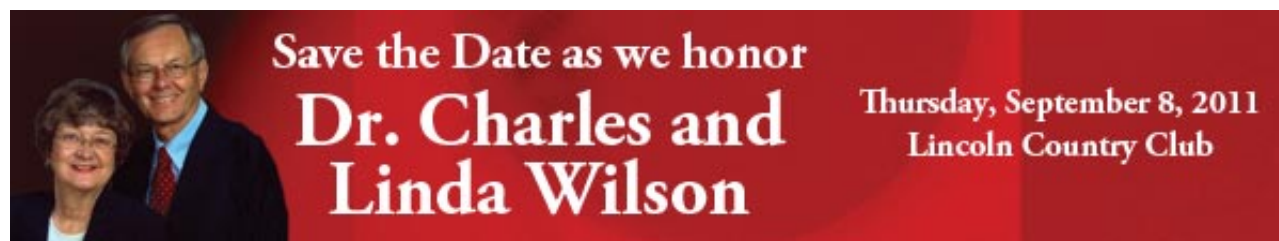
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## Reprogrammed cells trigger immune reactions in mice

Cells that have been reprogrammed to grow into different types of tissue might be rejected by the body — even when they are transplanted into the individual from whom they are made, researchers report in a study published today in *Nature*.

The study was led by Yang Xu, a molecular biologist at the University of California, San Diego. It will shake up the regenerative-medicine field, because until now, most scientists have assumed that reprogrammed cells made from an individual's own tissue could be safely transplanted back into the same person.

[Full Story from \*Nature News\* \(05-13-2011\)](#)



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## Second spinal cord injury patient in stem cell trial

Doctors have begun treating a second patient injected with human embryonic stem cells in the spine as part of a landmark Geron Corp clinical trial testing the cells in spinal cord injuries. The patient, who is not being identified, will undergo a progressive course of rehabilitation at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago after receiving an injection of stem cells at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Northwestern officials said Tuesday.

[Full Story from \*Reuters\* \(05-10-2011\)](#)

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## Scientists Turn Human Skin Cells Directly Into Neurons, Skipping IPS Stage

Human skin cells can be converted directly into functional neurons in a period of four to five weeks with the addition of just four proteins, according to a study by researchers at the Stanford University School of Medicine. The finding is significant because it bypasses the need to first create induced pluripotent stem cells, and may make it much easier to generate patient- or disease-specific neurons for study in a laboratory dish.

[Full Story from \*Science Daily\* \(05-27-2011\)](#)

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## Doctor-Assisted Suicide Is Moral Issue Dividing Americans Most

Doctor-assisted suicide emerges as the most controversial cultural issue in Gallup's 2011 Values and Beliefs poll, with Americans divided 45% vs. 48% over whether it is morally acceptable or morally wrong. Having a baby out of wedlock and abortion also closely divide Americans. However, stronger public consensus exists on 14 other issues tested.

[Full Story from \*Gallup\* \(05-31-2011\)](#)

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