



Nebraska Coalition
for Lifesaving Cures

The Newsletter of the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures
March, 2013

Nebraska Coalition Co-Sponsors Nebraska Science Festival



On April 12-14, 2013, Nebraskans will explore the wonders of science through the inaugural Nebraska Science Festival, which will feature science-and technology-related activities across the Omaha area, all with the goal of making science accessible, interactive, relevant and fun for kids and adults alike.

Festival programs and activities will take place throughout that weekend in the Omaha area with the majority of events being free to the public. Among the highlights:

- A free Student Expo on April 12 at The Durham Museum will feature an array of interactive, hands-on science-related booths for elementary-aged youths.
- A free Public Expo on April 13 at The Durham Museum will feature an array of interactive, hands-on science-related booths and presentations.
- Dancing Scientist Jeffrey Vinokur will combine science and dance into a high-energy performance on April 12 & 13 at The Durham Museum.
- CAPOW, the University of Nebraska at Omaha's chemistry and physics show, will entertain children on April 12 & 13 at The Durham Museum.
- Additional sites in and around Omaha will provide science-related activities during the Festival weekend.

[More Info on NeSciFest.com](http://www.NeSciFest.com)



[A closer look at Stem Cell treatments](#)

[Concerns about Stem Cell tourism](#)

[Patients Guide to Stem Cell treatments](#)

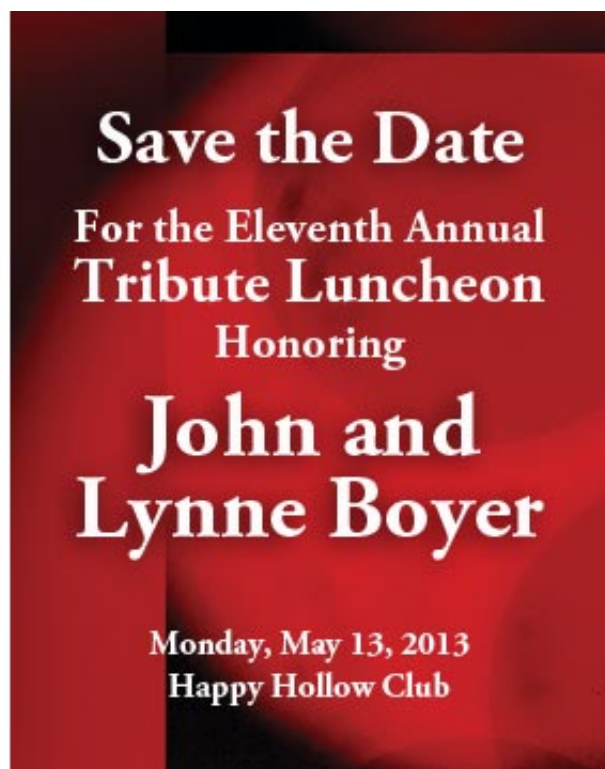
Heineman: Farm Focus

Key For New Nebraska Regent

Gov. Dave Heineman says he plans to fill an open seat on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents based on the person's views on agriculture, college affordability and the university's role in spurring economic growth.

The new board opening has drawn the attention of abortion opponents, who want Heineman to fill the seat with a candidate who opposes embryonic stem cell research.

[Full Story on *WOWT.com* \(02-15-2013\)](#)



Former state senator and Nebraska Coalition board member Ardyce Bohlke dies

Former state Sen. Ardyce Bohlke died Thursday at Mary Lanning Health Care in Hastings from complications of brain cancer. She was 69.

Bohlke, a Democrat, was appointed by then-Gov. Ben Nelson in 1991 to fill a vacancy in the Legislature. She was elected in 1992 and 1996, and served until 2001.

[Full Story in *Lincoln Journal-Star* \(2-21-2013\)](#)

FDA Challenges Stem Cell Companies As Patients Run Out Of Time

Americans seeking stem cell replacement therapy hope the process can heal them of myriad diseases, and a 2011 report by the Baker Institute estimated the industry could bring in \$16 billion in revenue by 2020.

But the Food and Drug Administration has expressed concerns. The agency sued to stop treatments at a Regenerative Sciences clinic in Colorado and closed the lab of another company, Celltex Therapeutics, in Texas. While patients in dire situations are willing to try the therapy (and pay the hefty costs), there's concern the research doesn't support broad practice just yet.

[Full Story on *NPR.com* \(02-02-2013\)](#)



Diabetes Going Down for the Count?

We're going to whip diabetes. By "we", of course, I mean the California stem cell program, and the seven million voters who said yes to the greatest battle of all time: the fight against chronic disease.

You've heard the statistics: 100 million Americans have a disease they will never get rid of -- chronic means long-term, generally incurable. And the cost: the incredible financial burden, a mountain of medical debt for the country, roughly two trillion dollars, equaling or exceeding the national debt. If we can't heal people, we must pay for their care, and the costs are ruining us. But the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) is taking on the challenge.

[Full Story on *The Huffington Post* \(2-21-2013\)](#)

Stem cells in Texas: Cowboy culture

By offering unproven therapies, a Texas biotechnology firm has sparked a bitter debate about how stem cells should be regulated.

Ann McFarlane is losing faith. In the first half of 2012, the Houston resident received four infusions of adult stem cells grown from her own fat. McFarlane has multiple sclerosis (MS), and had heard that others with the inflammatory disease had experienced improvements in mobility and balance after treatment. The infusions — which have cost her about US\$32,000 so far — didn't help, but she knew that there were no guarantees.

It is McFarlane's experience with Celltex Therapeutics, the company that administered the cells, that bothers her.

[Full Story from *Nature* \(2-13-2013\)](#)

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