



Nebraska Coalition
for Lifesaving Cures

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

**Linda and Charles Wilson, M.D.
Honored at Nebraska Coalition's
First Lincoln Luncheon**

Linda and Charles Wilson, M.D. were presented with the First Annual Lifesaver Award at a luncheon in Lincoln on September 8.

The Wilsons have been staunch supporters of medical research through their work in both professional and civic organizations. Their support has allowed the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures to advocate for research that will advance our quality of life here in Nebraska.

Congratulations to the Wilsons!



Linda and Charles Wilson, M.D. accept their Lifesaver Award at the luncheon in Lincoln.



Chancellor Harvey Perlman, Jon Hinrichs, M.D., Donna Woods, Linda Wilson, Chuck Wilson, M.D., Mary Strand, Jim Strand, Chancellor Harold Maurer, M.D.



UNMC Announces Richard Holland Future Scientist Award Winners

Six undergraduate students from four Nebraska colleges and universities recently received the 2011 Richard Holland Future Scientist Award from the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures.

The students received cash prizes totaling \$2,700 Aug. 10 at the annual INBRE (Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence Program) conference in Grand Island. The awards are named in honor of Richard Holland, an Omaha philanthropist and longtime supporter of research.

[Full Story in the UNMC Newsroom \(08-19-2011\)](#)

First patient enrolls in a clinical trial funded by CIRM

September 20 was a landmark day for CIRM, as they announced that the first patient had been enrolled in a clinical trial based on stem cell agency funding.

The patient was part of Menlo Park-based Geron's phase I trial for spinal cord injury, which was awarded \$25 million from CIRM in May. Stanford neurosurgeon Gary Steinberg, MD, PhD, implanted the cells Sept. 17 at Rehabilitation Trauma Center at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

[Full Story on California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's blog \(09-20-2011\)](#)

Scientists appeal on embryonic stem cell funding

Two scientists on Monday appealed a ruling that permitted federal funding of human embryonic stem research to go forward, an effort by the U.S. government to try to find cures for deadly diseases.

Dr. James Sherley, a biological engineer at Boston Biomedical Research Institute, and Theresa Deisher, of Washington-based AVM Biotechnology, opposed such research and had sued to block funding. They also argued it diverted money away from their work with adult stem cells. Opponents of human embryonic stem cell research, including many religious conservatives, have argued that it is unacceptable because it destroys human embryos.

[Full Story from Reuters \(09-19-2011\)](#)

Cause of ALS is found, Northwestern team says

Researchers at Northwestern University say they have discovered a common cause behind the mysterious and deadly affliction of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, that could open the door to an effective treatment.

Dr. Teepu Siddique, a neuroscientist with Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine whose pioneering

work on ALS over more than a quarter-century fueled the research team's work, said the key to the breakthrough is the discovery of an underlying disease process for all types of ALS.

[Full Story in the *Chicago Tribune* \(08-22-2011\)](#)

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