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At left, 2009 RTLNM Education Conference speakers (from left) Paul Gessing, Burke Balch, and Wesley J. Smith. Above, Speaker Burke Balch prepares for his presentation as hotel meeting room fills.

Education Conference and Upcoming Seminars Target Current Life Issues

If you were one of the lucky people who attended the day-long conference, you walked away with a wealth of important information. "This was the best one yet" was heard from many people. Indeed, it was a wonderful convention. Wesley Smith, Burke Balch, and Paul Gessing did a great job with complementing workshops. All aspects of health care coverage, the pitfalls, the current situation, and some of the myths were covered.

We at RTLNM try to present people who are experts in the fields of the pro-life issues. We have used the workshop/banquet format to cover as much as possible in one day. We know that economics figured into this year's attendance, and we will be addressing this in the future. We were "stuck" with decisions that were made early last year before things turned sour in our economy.

We will continue to try to do better in the future. We will need others to promote what we are doing when we don't have the money to do it. There has been criticism for lack of advertising. With the budget we have and the cost of advertising, we are very limited. Our budget is very tight now due to the same financial concerns you are facing. We do depend on word of mouth, your mouth.

The Education Committee will be offering "free" seminars in the coming months. We just haven't seen or made important the whole pro-life issues. We must change our own attitudes and help others to see that our nation will not remain strong unless it has a moral compass—one that respects life at all stages.

Please take advantage of the seminars. Education is the answer, and all of us have to work together to achieve that goal. It is alright to be pro-life in heart, but being pro-life in mind too makes us "dangerous" to the pro-death movement. Only you can make that happen.

Thank you to all who came to the conference and learned so much. As in sales, spread the information by word of

mouth. You are now a teacher. The conference was taped, but we have not seen the tapes or decided how to use them. We will inform you of this decision soon.

Embryonic Stem Cell Research Trial Has Problems

JANUARY 29, 2009 (LIFENEWS.COM)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the use of embryonic stem cells for human trial. It has given California-based biotechnology company Geron Corp. permission to conduct the first-ever human trial for a treatment derived from the controversial cells. The research involves 10 spinal cord patients with injuries the company hopes to treat with an experimental drug containing embryonic stem cells. To this point, embryonic stem cell research has never cured or helped any patients. Only adult stem cells can claim this success.

Some scientists say the research is not ready for use in humans. Evan Snyder, a neuroscientist who heads up the stem cell research center at Burnham Institute for Medical Research in San Diego says, "There's a lot of debate among spinal cord researchers that the pre-clinical data itself doesn't justify the clinical trial." Evan Snyder is working on using neural stem cells.

Snyder says the mice Geron used to conduct pre-human trial research had more excessive injuries than scientists would normally prefer to see prior to trying the procedure on human patients. He suggests that Geron should have done experiments involving larger animals before seeking FDA permission to use the controversial embryonic stem cells in humans. These concerns existed as early as 2005 and may not have been addressed. Snyder said that Geron should do more animal testing first to make sure the test would be on the same injuries humans have.

Jerry Silver, a neuroscience professor and stem-cell researcher at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, told *Knight Ridder* back in November 2005 that Geron was moving too fast and needed to do more tests on animals before seeking human patients. "Frankly, I cannot conceive of a human trial with the use of human embryonic stem cells following immediately from experiments in rodents only," he said then. "Many treatments that work in rodents to alleviate disease fail miserably in humans."

Bioethicist Wesley J. Smith says he is concerned the FDA didn't make Geron offer more proof its experiments were ready for human trials. "Why wouldn't the FDA require such work as they usually do in approving new drugs? Indeed, when the FDA said no to Geron last year, I expected suc-

cessful larger animal work be a necessary precondition to obtaining the FDA's approval."

Smith is worried the decision may have been made for political rather than scientific reasons—ironic given Obama's complaint that the Bush administration did the same thing. "The FDA should be above politics. I hope that it was in this case. Otherwise, if things go wrong, the moral consequences will be on the commissioners' heads."

Obama Stem Cell Decision Upsets Snowflake Babies, Pro-Life Congressmen

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Several pro-life members of Congress held a press conference with "snowflake babies." These are the children who were formerly stored human embryos at fertility clinics who could have been destroyed for scientific research but have since been adopted. Cong. Chris Smith (R-NJ) orchestrated the press conference.

"Assertions that leftover embryos are better off dead so that their stem cells can be derived is dehumanizing and cheapens human life. There is no such thing as leftover human life," Smith said.

"Ask the snowflake children—cryogenically frozen embryos who were adopted—their lives are precious and priceless," he added.

He knows something about stem cell research. Smith wrote the law in 2005 authorizing \$265 million in federal funding for cord blood and bone marrow adult stem cell programs, but he says Obama's decision takes away that funding by diverting federal funds to stem cells that have never helped patients.

The pro-life congressmen were also joined by Stephen Sprague, who was diagnosed with leukemia. He received an umbilical cord blood transfer in 1997 and is walking proof that cord blood stem cells work.

Smith said Obama's decision is both immoral and ignores the advances embryonic alternatives that are doing more to help patients. "Despite the lack of progress in human embryonic stem cell research and despite all the new and extraordinary medical breakthroughs in the use of adult stem cells, President Obama remains obsessed with killing human embryos for experimentation at taxpayer expense," Smith said. "Why does the President persist in the dehumanizing of innocent human life when better alternatives exist? Human embryo-destroying stem cell research is not only unethical, unworkable, and unreliable—it is now demonstrably unnecessary," Smith added.

Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA) said, "Many people want to pose this debate as one of moral conscience in opposition to science, but the two do not need to be in conflict. In fact, science has made it possible to treat patients with stem cells that do not require the destruction of human embryos—indeed this is the only research that has led to the actual treatment of patients."

John Boehner, House Republican leader, added that Obama's decision runs counter to his promise to be a president for all Americans. "For a third time in his young presi-

dency, the President has rolled back important protections for innocent human life, further dividing our nation at a time when we need greater unity to tackle the challenges before us," he said.

Privately funded research on human embryonic stem cells has always been legal and remained so under the Bush administration. Millions of dollars in the public sector are spent every year on human embryonic stem cell research, though there have yet to be successful human clinical trials or treatments for patients with life-threatening diseases.

Former Head of NIH: Embryonic Stem Cell Research Prospects Diminished Now

Some scientists say the controversial research is no longer the hot prospect for patients. Bernadine Healy, the former head of the National Institutes of Health and the American Red Cross, says the remarkable advances of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells) are beginning to subsume embryonic stem cells.

She wrote in the *U.S. News and World Report* that the iPS cells and adult stem cell research successes have "diminished" the prospect that ESCR is the future of regenerative medicine.

"Even for strong backers of embryonic stem cell research, [Obama's decision] is no longer as self-evident as it was, because there is markedly diminished need for expanding these cell lines for either patient therapy or basic research," Healy explains.

"In fact, during the first six weeks of Obama's term, several events reinforced the notion the embryonic stem cells, once thought to hold the cure for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and diabetes, are obsolete," she adds.

She points to the news in February that embryonic stem cells injected into a patient in Israel caused disabling if not deadly tumors. Healy says that the news should cause Obama to instruct the Food and Drug Administration to "take another look" at its decision to approve a trial sponsored by the biotech firm Geron to use embryonic stem cells in a clinical trial involving human patients.

"The FDA should now be compelled to take another look. Are eight to 10 patients enough or one year of monitoring sufficient to assess safety?" she asks.

Obama Pushes Step by Step the Creation and Harvesting of Human Embryos

National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) issued this statement by NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson on Friday, April 17.

The Obama Administration today slides further down the slippery slope of exploiting non-consenting members of the human species: human embryos.

Some may characterize the guidelines issued today as narrowly crafted, since NIH will not initially fund research involving human embryos who were created specifically to be used in research. This seeming restraint is part of an incremental strategy intended to desensitize the public to

PRO-ABORTION PRESIDENTIAL RECORD...

Dec. 10: Obama transition team publishes memo from dozens of pro-abortion groups listing their laundry list of pro-abortion actions they want him to take.

Pro-abortion Presidential Record (2009)

Jan. 5: Picks pro-abortion Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine as Chairman of the Democratic Party.

Jan. 6: Obama chooses Thomas Perrelli, the lawyer who represented Terri Schiavo's husband Michael in his efforts to kill his disabled wife, as the third highest attorney in the Justice Department.

Jan. 22: Releases statement restating support for *Roe v. Wade* decision that allowed virtually unlimited abortions and has resulted in at least 50 million abortions since 1973.

Jan. 23: Forces taxpayers to fund pro-abortion groups that either promote or perform abortions in other nations. Decision to overturn Mexico City Policy sends part of \$457 million to pro-abortion organizations.

Jan. 26: Obama nominee for Deputy Secretary of State James B. Steinberg tells members of the senate that taxpayers should be forced to fund abortions. Nominee erroneously says limits on abortion funding are unconstitutional.

Jan. 29: President Obama nominates pro-abortion David Ogden as Deputy Attorney General.

Feb. 12: Obama nominates pro-abortion Elena Kagan to serve as Solicitor General.

Feb. 27: Starts the process of overturning pro-life conscience protections President Bush put in place to make sure medical staff and centers are not forced to do abortions.

Feb. 28: Barack Obama nominates Kathleen Sebelius to become Secretary of Health and Human Services.

March 5: The Obama administration shuts out pro-life groups from attending a White House sponsored health care summit. Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion business, made the invitation list as did other pro-abortion groups.

March 9: President Barack Obama signed an executive order forcing taxpayer funding of embryonic stem cell research.

March 10: Obama announces the creation of a new foreign policy position to focus on women's issues. He names Melanne Vermeer, an abortion advocate, to occupy the post.

March 10: Obama reverses an executive order to press for more research into ways of obtaining embryonic stem cells without harming human life. The order Obama scrapped would have promoted new forms of stem cell research.

March 11: Obama signed an executive order establishing a new agency within his administration known as the White House Council on Women and Girls. Obama's director in the Office of Public Liaison at the White House, Tina Tchen, an abortion advocate, became its director.

March 11: Obama administration promotes an unlimited right to abortion at a United Nations meeting.

March 11: Obama administration officials deny negative effects of abortion at the United Nation's meeting.

March 17: President Barack Obama makes his first judicial appointment and names pro-abortion federal judge David Hamilton to serve on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

March 26: Announces \$50 million for UNFPA, the UN

population agency that has been criticized for promoting abortion and working closely with Chinese population control officials who used to force abortions and involuntary sterilizations.

This is only the beginning. You may want to save this record and future records we send to you to share with your "pro-life" friends who voted for and thus helped President Barack Obama to do all these anti-life activities. Maybe they will reconsider their support next time and be more diligent and careful voters in the 2010 elections. Please give them these documented dates and activities.

Steven Ertelt, editor of LifeNews.com, accumulated these historical and sad anti-life acts.

Now Some Good News for a Change...

Abortion Center Owners Officially Charged with Performing Unlicensed Abortions

LOS ANGELES, CA

The owner of a chain of abortion centers in California has been sentenced to three years and four months in prison on charges of pretending to be a physician and performing abortion without a medical license. Bertha Pinedo Burgarin, 48, had pleaded no contest to seven felon courts in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Burgarin was accused of putting more than a dozen patients at risk by performing abortions or giving the dangerous RU 486 abortion drug without having medical training. She received slightly less than the five years that the prosecutors sought. Now Burgarin faces sentencing in San Diego County on similar charges. She could get nine more years.

Abortionist Faces September Trial for Killing Woman in Botched Abortion

Abortion practitioner Rapin Osathanondh has been charged with manslaughter after killing 22-year-old Laura Smith in September 2007 in a botched legal abortion at his Women's Health Center abortion business in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

Laura was 13 weeks pregnant when she had the abortion. Osathanondh reportedly sedated her and did not have another staff member on site with appropriate medical training to monitor Smith's vital signs during the abortion. Smith died shortly after the abortion. She died from "cardiac pulmonary arrest during anesthesia." Osathanondh and his staff had been uncertified in CPR until that time.

Nation's Oldest Abortion Business Closes After Performing Abortions for 36 Years

OAKLAND, CA (LIFENEWS.COM)

The bad economy has been blamed for potentially driving up the number of abortions, but it is also responsible for closing abortion centers. An abortion business in Oakland is closing after 36 years because it can no longer afford to operate.

The Women's Choice Clinic (WCC) of Oakland's Director Linci Comy said the economic crunch and the hurt it has

OLDEST ABORTION BUSINESS CLOSES...

caused for the state budget is the culprit. WCC has not been able to receive MediCal reimbursements from the state to pay for abortions it does on poor women. "We haven't been able to make our rent payments" as a result, Comy told the *Oakland Tribune*.

In more than three decades, Comy estimates that WCC has seen 64,000 customers and about 2,000 customers on an annual basis.

Unfortunately, there are still 10 other pregnancy centers in the Oakland area. However, other abortion centers have closed due to the economy. One in Latham, New York, a suburb of Albany run by Planned Parenthood also closed down. It dispensed RU 486 abortions and did not do surgical abortions. Planned Parenthood also closed down a facility in Monroe, Washington due to tough economic times.

Late-Term Abortionist George Tiller Will Stand Trial After Court Ruling

WICHITA, KS

from LifeNews.com Editor Steven Ertelt

A decision by a local judge means Kansas-based late-term abortion practitioner George Tiller will stand trial for charges that he did illegal abortions. Tiller has been accused of violating state law requiring a second independent physician to sign off on his late-term abortions. Tiller was slapped with 19 criminal charges for failing to follow the law and using a fellow abortion practitioner with whom he has a financial relationship to claim the abortions were medically necessary.

Sedgwick County District Court Judge Clark Owens released a decision February 25, 2009, dismissing a request from Tiller attorneys that the evidence in the case be suppressed because of claims that it was improperly obtained.

Judge Owens addressed all the concerns Tiller's attorneys brought up over six days of testimony, including claims that former Attorney General Phil Kline acted in a way that should allow the case to be dismissed. Owens' ruling exonerated Kline and allows the trial to move ahead.

"While Phil Kline testified that he would like for all abortions to be outlawed, his investigations made no attempt to prevent lawful abortions from being performed in the State of Kansas," Owens ruled. "His conduct in the investigation does not merit the sanction of the dismissal of the charges or suppression of evidence," Judge Owens added. "The motion to dismiss or suppress is therefore denied."

Operation Rescue President Troy Newman has been closely following the case, and he told LifeNews.com the decision is good news for Kansans and pro-life advocates. This decision brings us one step closer to justice," he said. "We continue to pray that true justice will be served on behalf of the innocent, viable babies wrongfully killed by Tiller."

Tiller is now scheduled to go to trial on March 16 concerning the charges and could face one year in prison for each count on which he is convicted.

April 6, 2009 More on George Tiller

The Kansas Board of Healing Arts is already pursuing a case against late-term abortion practitioner George Tiller, but two complaints could also result in him losing his medical

license. One pro-life group says that the board's petition and the complaints together could spell the end of Tiller's abortion career.

Moments after a Kansas grand jury acquitted Tiller of allegedly engaging in illegal late-term abortions on March 27, 2009, the medical board announced the 11-count petition against Tiller. The state board also sent letters to two women notifying them that their complaints against Tiller remain open and are progressing through the system.

The first woman, identified only by her first name Shaye, was part of an undercover investigation conducted by the pro-life group Operation Rescue. She found Tiller's abortion business fudging the dates of her unborn child to make a late-term abortion. She was in her 25th week of pregnancy, and her sonogram showed her baby was past the threshold of viability. The Tiller employee who did the sonogram threw this information with the measurements into the trash and came up with a lower measurement. Then Shaye was scheduled for an abortion. Her evidence appeared to back up concerns that Tiller's abortion business routinely underestimates the fetal age and viability of unborn children in order to comply with Kansas law. By estimating that the age of the baby at the time of the abortion is less than late-term, it can get away with not complying with the requirements Kansas law places on such abortions.

Patient S. suffered life-threatening abortion complications at Tiller's abortion center, including a high fever and respiratory and cardiac arrest during the abortion. She was transported to the hospital in Tiller's private vehicle where he told her to keep the IV bag down so pro-life observers would not see it. She also suffered a staph infection on her face due to the apparent use of a dirty oxygen mask.

"Tiller's troubles are far from over, and his medical license remains at risk. With the charges at the board, we are encouraged by news that these cases are moving forward," Operation President Troy Newman told Life News.

Assisted Suicide Update

SALEM, OR

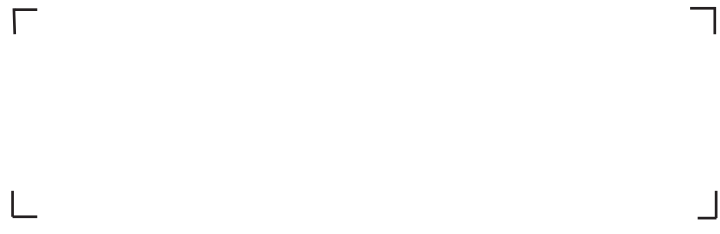
A new report from Oregon shows the number of people killed via assisted suicide there has increased 30 percent in the last two years. The State Health Department found 88 prescriptions for lethal medications were written during 2008 compared to 85 in 2007 and 65 during 2006. Of those who received the deadly drugs, 54 people used them to take their own lives, 22 died from their underlying disease, and 12 had not used their drugs by the end of 2008. Six people who got their drugs in 2007 killed themselves in 2008. The physician who prescribed the drugs has only been present 18.3 percent of the time, thus reporting safeguards for the people who die by assisted suicide due to this reporting system are incomplete. There may be many more, and there are no third party reports or investigations to ensure that the cases fulfilled the requirements of the law and/or that the reports are accurately reported. We don't know if the assisted suicides occurred or if the patients were pressured or died outside the guidelines of the law.

**RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE
OF NEW MEXICO**

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**Cable TV Schedule for Pro-life Videos
Comcast Channel 27 (Albuquerque PAC)**

All pro-life videos are Mondays at 10 p.m.

- May 4** "The First Days of Life" and "The Procedure"
- May 11** "Meet the Abortion Providers" and "Death by Demand"
- May 18** "Conceived in Liberty"
- May 25** "Conceived in Liberty"

Happy Mother's Day
To You Who Care for Life

Whether you are an expectant mother, or an established mother, or a grandmother (very established), a step-mother or a god mother, you are in the position of giving the care and love that holds our world together. Thank you for the many dedicated hours you have and will give to your very important role. Have a wonderful day now and every day.

Five Alive

RTLNCNM hopes you will sign up for the Five Alive Program 2009, which helps provide a budget to keep our organization operational and meet our basic needs. You can fill out the form below. We will need this a.s.a.p. so that we can mail envelopes out and have you ready to start contributing your tax-deductible donation in January. \$5 a month from everyone would allow us to raise money for media and other educational tools, so come on board by sending in the form below.

I wish to donate \$5 monthly. I wish to donate \$_____ monthly.

Monthly thank you notes will not be sent.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I understand that the Right To Life Committee of New Mexico (RTLNCNM) is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization dedicated to the right to life of all innocent human beings from fertilization to natural death; that this organization takes a stand only on those issues that are directly related to abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

I support the goals of RTLNCNM, including a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and hereby make application for membership (renewal) as follows:

- Individual — \$20.00
- Corporate — \$40.00 - for business organizations
- Family — \$30.00
- NRL News Subscription (\$5.00 with paid membership)

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Wish to: (check one)

- Register to vote
- Re-register

I am a registered: (check one)

- Republican Democrat
- Other

Signature

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