



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Destroying Lives in order to Save Lives



Education: A new technique has been reported as a way to alter human genes in order to potentially eradicate genetically inherited conditions.(1, 2) Scientists of Oregon's Health and Science University used donor sperm with a defective gene that causes a heart condition, and donor eggs without the defective gene, to produce fertilized eggs. They then injected the newly created human beings with a molecule called CRISPR that was designed to seek out the defective gene and cut it out of the DNA. 42 out of the 58 embryos created were able to correct the gap by filling in the healthy version of the gene. None of the

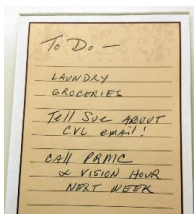
embryos, however, were allowed to survive. They were considered to be, not human beings, but simply research objects.

This case is a clear example of research involving human embryos. While embryonic stem cells can now be potentially replaced by adult stem cells,(3) research using embryos continues. The intent is to develop a technique that could "correct" defects in children created in vitro, so that these children could end the continuing transmission of defective genes to future generations, eventually eliminating those defects. But as part of the research embryos were created and then destroyed. It is scientific fact that human life begins at fertilization, so 58 human beings were killed in just this one experiment.(2) Scott Klusendorf, president of Life Training Institute, had this to say on Facebook: "The headlines misdirect and hide the true horror presented here. At issue is not merely that we are designing babies, bad as that may be. It's that we're intentionally creating human embryos ... then, destroying them, to perfect the race." (2,4) In the United States, federal funding is denied to research involving the creation of human embryos, but with the consent of the donor, "leftover" embryos from in vitro fertilization may be used. Private research is not restricted. (5) State laws regarding embryonic research vary widely. (6)

1. <http://www.nature.com/news/crispr-fixes-disease-gene-in-viable-human-embryos-1.22382>
2. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/new-gene-editing-breakthrough-crispr-eradicates-disease-by-eradicating-human-lives/>
3. <https://stemcell.ucla.edu/induced-pluripotent-stem-cells>
4. <https://www.facebook.com/scott.klusendorf/posts/10155515884779780?pnref=story>
5. <http://www.rtl.org/legislation/ProlifeLaws/embryoresearchlaws.html>
6. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/embryonic-and-fetal-research-laws.aspx>



Prayer: Dear Lord, please extend your mercy to all scientists who use, or desire to use, human embryos in their research. Open their hearts to the truth that every human life is valuable from the moment of conception (fertilization). Help them to realize that it is wrong to treat human beings of any age as mere research objects. Help scientists find ethical ways to help improve the lives of individuals with genetic defects, while continuing to respect them as individual human beings, human beings with gifts and value, in spite of their genetic "defect". Bless families with special needs children, and help them to find the resources they need to care for their children, and help them to have fulfilling lives.



Action: Although federal funding is allowed only for certain research in the use of stem cells, research with private funds continues to create and destroy human embryos. In any discussion about research involving human embryos, clearly state your position that human life begins at fertilization, and the intentional destruction of a human life is never justified. Be aware of your state laws and support legislation to ban any research involving the destruction of human embryos.