

Proponent, Senate Bill 199

Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
Committee chair, Sen. Pilcher-Cook, and members,

Feb. 25, 2013

Kansans for Life wholeheartedly supports SB 199 to establish a Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center at the University of Kansas.

Seven years ago, when Kansas was being heavily lobbied to support unproductive and unethical embryonic research, the **correct decision was made to enact legislation supporting adult stem cell science and encouraging strategic partnerships**. The law says, in part:

The department of health and environment and the Kansas bioscience authority shall collaborate and jointly encourage or otherwise facilitate the recruitment of entities to establish umbilical cord banks in Kansas and partnerships between umbilical cord banks in Kansas and researchers or organizations in Kansas, or in other regions of the United States of America or other countries.

K.S.A. 65-1,249 (g) [May 2006]

The legislature that year also budgeted \$150,000 to fund a KU adult stem cell research project using umbilical cord blood. And positive developments have blossomed. International stem cell expert, Dr. David Prentice, informs that,

"The **Kansas City metropolitan area has become one of the strategic centers in the nation** for the life sciences, including adult stem cell and umbilical cord blood research and treatments. Between St Luke's Hospital, Children's Mercy Hospital, and the University of Kansas Medical Center, these pioneering treatment centers have treated over 1,500 patients with Adult Stem Cells."

<http://cnsnews.com/blog/james-sunday/adult-stem-cells-saved-my-life>

In an article for our parent organization, the National Right to Life Committee, Dr. Prentice also reminds that,

"Adult stem cells remain the gold standard among stem cells when it comes to helping patients. The first transplants, using whole bone marrow, were done decades ago, but it took many years before these transplants were accepted as therapeutic successes. Today, adult stem cell transplants remain the only successful use of stem cells for patients, as documented by hundreds of published, peer-reviewed scientific articles. **Over 60,000 people around the globe are treated each year** with

adult stem cells, because adult stem cells have a proven record at saving lives and improving health"
<http://www.nrlc.org/news/2013/201301/StemCellsPage27.html#.USl6uFdH469>

However, a sober warning comes to this committee both from testimony Feb. 7 by Kansas City neurologist, Dr. Dana Winegarner, and testimony today from Kansas City ethicist, Dr. John Morris about **stem cell tourism**. Due to the scant progress in setting up mechanisms to move adult stem cell trials safely and reliably into the clinic, a desperate populace is increasingly lured outside the U.S. for unproven stem cell applications by unqualified physicians.

The answer is a Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center at KU. Such a unique endeavor will focus primarily on patient needs, and secondarily on research and education. It would:

- treat patients,
- process and multiply stem cells,
- create a centrally-located global database,
- network physicians and scientists, and
- initiate educational outreach.

A Midwest Stem Cell Therapy Center at KU would not only help desperately ill people access safe and effective treatments, but also provide the proper follow-up and documentation that will accelerate good science.

Kansas not only can do this, Kansas MUST do this!

We encourage the members to pass SB 199 favorably out of committee. Thank you.

Kathy Ostrowski,
Kansans for Life legislative director