

May 20, 2005

FOR FACTS ON ADULT STEM CELLS: RELY ON THE LATEST PUBLISHED RESEARCH, NOT AN OPINION LETTER WRITTEN BACK IN FEBRUARY 2001!

Dear Colleague:

Advocates of embryo stem cell research continue to quote a letter to President Bush signed by 80 Nobel Laureates stating: "Current evidence suggests that adults stem cells have markedly restricted differentiation potential." **The problem is they forget to tell you that this letter was written back in February 2001 – more than four years ago!**

Since that letter was written adult and cord blood research - including actual treatments and cures in humans - has expanded dramatically. The concerns expressed in that letter about the limitations of adult stem cell have been proven unfounded. **Adult stem cells are actually demonstrating – in humans, not petri dishes - flexibility by repairing heart tissue and spinal cord injuries, regenerating insulin producing cells, improving function in Parkinson's' patient, growing blood vessels to improve circulation, repairing corneas and many other diseases and injuries.**

Since 2001 several additional sources of adult stem cell have been identified and dozens of articles have been published in peer reviewed medical journals demonstrating the ability of adult and cord blood stem cells to turn into other types of cells and tissues (otherwise known as pluripotency). The other advantage is that since these adult stem cells are from the individual's own body and cord blood is from a close match; many of the immune rejection problems are not a hurdle. Below is a list showing the source of the adult stem cell (in headings) and underneath the arrow a list of the tissues into which these cells have been demonstrated to transform.

For the fact on adult stem cells, let's rely on recently published peer-reviewed journal articles, not a letter signed by advocates of embryo stem cell research more than four years ago.

Sincerely,

Dave Weldon, M.D.
Member of Congress

