



New Jersey Catholic Stem Cell Research Education Campaign

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What this scientist and Catholic priest says about stem cell research may surprise you

Stem cell research opposition: a question of basic human rights

If you step into the ring to debate the stem cell research issue with Rev. Dr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, be prepared.

With millions of tax dollars at stake, it comes as no surprise that the stem cell debate is filled with confusion, controversy and misinformation. Father Pacholczyk (or “Father Tad” as he is commonly known), is a leading Catholic voice fighting against the propaganda surrounding the stem cell research debate. Recently featured in the documentary **The Science of Stem Cells: Findings Cures and Protecting Lives**, Father Tad serves as Director of Education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center (www.ncbcenter.org) in Philadelphia.

Steeped in the wisdom and knowledge of Catholic Teaching, Church, Father Tad also is an accomplished scientist with a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Yale University. He conducted post-doctoral research at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Frequently called upon by network news reporters, state and federal lawmakers and others, many are surprised that his opposition to embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) and human cloning isn’t directly rooted in his religious beliefs.

“Embryonic stem cell research is a kind of technology that always involves doing violence to young humans,” explains Father

Tad. “Although it has connections to religion, it is not, at the end of the day, a religious question. It is a question of *basic human rights*.”

As the embryonic stem cell research debate continues to unfold, Father Tad has witnessed what he calls “a good deal of hype and overselling” from proponents who say embryonic stem cell research offers the best hope and promise for the discovery of cures and treatments. Father Tad believes one of the best approaches for arguing against embryo-destructive research is to simply look at the scientific and medical facts that are impossible to refute.



Rev. Dr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk

When trying to explain the reasoning behind opposition to human embryonic stem cell

research, Father Tad often turns to another well-known ban — the federal law that bans the destruction or misuse of bald eagle eggs. “What is it that’s special about the eagle’s egg?” asks Father Tad. “What’s actually inside the egg? It’s an embryonic eagle — the very same animal, the very same creature that flies gloriously in the clouds overhead. Even a perfect and absolute atheist can appreciate how reasonable a law like that is.”

“But somehow, as soon as you start talking about vulnerable young humans in their embryonic form, we go through remarkable

and sophisticated somersaults in an attempt to tell ourselves that somehow this should be justifiable, that this should be okay. When, in point of fact, we know just based on the biology that there is a profound violation at the root of this proposal.”

To view *The Science of Stem Cells: Finding Cures and Protecting Lives* visit www.RespectLifeToday.org.

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