

## Natural Law and a Reformed Bioethics: Another Look

by Hans Madueme, MD, Research Analyst

Sex, without babies? Behold the origin of our conundrums in reproductive ethics! Our culture developed the technology to separate the sexual act from procreation, classically with the extramarital use of the Pill (in the sexual revolution), and thus was unleashed a host of problems that have plagued us ever since. So the argument goes.<sup>1</sup> We would have no reproductive ethical dilemmas had we kept together the sexual act and procreation. This argument for preserving the natural integrity of the sexual act is shocking to modern liberated ears (traditional Roman Catholic teaching is much less beholden to reproductive technologies). This is not the place however to referee such controversies, but perhaps we can reflect briefly on the relationship between ontology and bioethics.

What do I mean? Let us first make the observation that when it comes to reproductive ethics, Protestant ethics has typically dropped the ball. That is to say, Protestants are often all over the map on the familiar issues. Some use the Pill, some do not. Some are in favor of IVF, some are not. Some would frown on the very idea of surrogate motherhood, others embrace it. What is interesting is the lack of an overall theological consistency, and the point could be magnified by looking at other non-reproductive ethical questions. Conservative Protestants, including evangelicals, who care deeply about Scripture, are often unaware of the natural law tradition, in part due to an ignorance of the broader Christian tradition. This can sometimes lead to a functionally “nominalistic” approach to Scripture. On this view, moral realism has its only ontological ground in explicit divine commands in the Bible, rendering it more difficult or even arbitrary to perceive the distinct moral contours of modern technologies and their attendant habits. Other Protestants are nervous about ‘natural law’ talk, anxious about the concessions it makes to Roman Catholic moral theology. There are some legitimate reasons for the anxiety, but it can sometimes be misplaced. It is certainly misplaced when it leaves us unwittingly with ontologically *thin* approaches to ethical reality.

In a recent book, Stephen Grabill argues forcefully that early Reformed theological ethics was fully committed to the natural law tradition inherited from medieval Christianity.<sup>2</sup> And yet most modern Reformed theologians reject natural law thinking. Grabill gives three main reasons for that irony. First, they have misunderstood John Calvin’s relationship to the medieval tradition and to later Post-Reformation orthodoxy. They also wrongly associate natural law exclusively with Roman Catholic moral theology. And thirdly, they wrongly adopt a divine command theory with no elbow room for natural law considerations. At the root of all this misunderstanding, Grabill thinks, is Karl Barth who, in his famous debate with Emil Brunner, fatefully argued against all forms of natural theology and natural law.

J. Daryl Charles is an ally in Grabill’s project of retrieval.<sup>3</sup> He too is worried about the ways in which conservative Protestants, including evangelicals, have lost the capacity for talking about moral “first things.” They often lack a moral discourse about ethical norms grounded in the very orders of creation. His case studies relate to some of the difficult issues in modern ethics and bioethics. Charles leans heavily on Catholic sources (especially John Paul II and Thomas Aquinas) as he makes his case for retrieving natural law. Both authors, however, argue that Protestant theological ethics must retrieve natural law modes of thought if it wants to engage ethically and effectively in our modern world.

Some will not find these two monographs convincing in every detail, and others will want to debate the cogency of different strands of their arguments.<sup>4</sup> Since both authors have specifically *Reformed* ethics in their rear view mirror, some further points along those lines are worth observing. The divine command ethic in the Reformed tradition is surely right that natural law, since it is descriptive of the created order, is grounded in God’s command (and yes, God’s command is—could it be otherwise?—consistent with his unchanging, loving, and faithful character).<sup>5</sup> And though it is not the only ethical perspective with this insight, divine command theory is also right about the importance of the Scripture principle; God has spoken infallibly in the Scriptures and, in light of the noetic effects of sin, the Word of God trumps any other contradictory access to truth. Furthermore, reconciliation with God, i.e. salvation, is only available through Jesus Christ as supernaturally mediated to us through the Gospel. Natural law is not salvific. With those observations in place, one can happily agree with Grabill and Charles that, historically, Reformed theological ethics affirmed the natural law tradition. One benefit of recognizing natural law (or with Lutherans, the ‘orders of creation’) is that it recovers a much more robust, ontological, moral realism. We live in a morally freighted world, and it is possible to go with or against the grain of God’s moral order, to our own weal or woe.

In sum, the natural law tradition helpfully reminds us that special revelation is, and must be, connected to general revelation. Some questions remain for those within the Reformed tradition; more clarity is needed, perhaps, on the relationship between Reformed ethics and the natural law tradition, not least with regards to the precise connection between natural law and the more familiar Reformed doctrine of common grace.<sup>6</sup> We know from Scripture that this world in its present form is passing away (1 Cor 7:31), and therefore natural law would seem to be necessarily limited (in proportion to the discontinuity between this world and the one to come). And yet natural law is part of the same moral order that Scripture takes part in, and speaks to, with God’s authority. Properly defined, natural law and biblical revelation are ontologically connected by divine design and that should inform our moral and ethical lives. Bioethics then is not just an intriguing sideshow, a sometimes curious footnote to our otherwise routine lives. The integrity of God’s moral order is fundamentally at stake. Many of us may need to be awakened to that reality, and then pray to God for wisdom and courage to pursue the common good with fresh, even holy zeal.

1) Leon Kass has offered this argument in different places; for example, see his *Life, Liberty and the Defense of Dignity: The Challenge for Bioethics* (Encounter Books, 2002), 143-47, 153-57.

2) Stephen Grabill, *Rediscovering the Natural Law in Reformed Theological Ethics* (Eerdmans, 2006).

3) J. Daryl Charles, *Retrieving the Natural Law: A Return to Moral First Things* (Eerdmans, 2008).

4) The literature on natural law is vast. One good place to start, especially on the differences between Roman Catholics and Protestants, is Michael Cromartie, ed., *A Preserving Grace: Protestants, Catholics, and Natural Law* (Eerdmans, 1997).

5) For a nuanced defense of divine command morality in Reformed ethics, see Richard Mouw, *The God Who Commands: A Study in Divine Command Ethics* (University of Notre Dame Press, 1990).

6) From a Dutch Reformed perspective, see Jan Veenhof, *Nature and Grace in Herman Bavinck* (trans. Albert M. Wolters; Dordt College Press, 2006). See also William Edgar, “A Response,” in *A Preserving Grace*, 118-130.

## DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Michael J. Sleasman, PhD  
Managing Director & Research Scholar

Greetings from the Center. Our apologies for this long-overdue Fall/Winter issue of *Dignitas*. The intervening months since our last issue have seen an immense sea of change in the domestic and international concerns facing us today. The financial and housing markets are beginning to show some signs of new life after an alarming near collapse that saw the disappearance of many retirement savings. The automotive industry saw massive declines in sales that brought about multi-billion dollar government loans and, in one case, bankruptcy proceedings. In the wake of such troubling times, the issues of bioethics could easily become yesterday's news, but, unfortunately, we do not see a reprieve from the complex bioethical issues of our day. News headlines from the past six months demonstrate the continued need for sober reflection on the classic issues of bioethics such as euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide and for the ability to adapt to ever evolving biotechnology conversations such as those raised by stem cell research and genetics. Headlines such as savior siblings and stem cells (in Spain), reported cases of physician-assisted suicide tourism (from the UK), the approval of Washington state's Death with Dignity law, and concerns over new guidelines for federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, came across our desk in the past few months just to name a few.

In this issue of *Dignitas*, we bring you two original research pieces and a number of various updates. The first research piece is an essay by CBHD research analyst Hans Madueme, MD entitled "Natural Law and a Reformed Bioethics: Another Look." In this piece, Dr. Madueme examines the importance and potential benefit of a robust analysis of natural law for Protestant bioethics in general and Reformed bioethics in particular. This piece takes as its basis some of the insights put forth in J. Daryl Charles's *Retrieving the Natural Law*, a 2008 addition to the Center's Critical Issues in Bioethics series with Eerdmans. The second piece is an annotated list of the top bioethics news stories of 2008 compiled by CBHD research assistant and intern, Kirsten Riggan. For many of us these new stories will be familiar territory, but we hope that you will find the compilation of some of the most significant stories to be a compelling statement of the impact of bioethics from a global standpoint. For others these news stories may be a wake-up call to the breadth of the bioethical issues of our day and the challenges and opportunities they present to our common humanity.

A new addition to *Dignitas* in this issue is the introduction of a set of columns: *On the Center's Bookshelf* and *Articles of Note*. Both of these new columns are in response to requests received from *Dignitas* readers and other CBHD constituents for recommendations on bioethics reading material from CBHD staff members. Some of the resources listed are recent additions to the field, while others are classics that a staff member is revisiting and wished to highlight. In both cases they are suggestions of material we have found to be either particularly provocative and/or informative. We hope that these lists will be an ongoing resource in expanding the material that our constituents and readership are critically accessing in the realm of all things bioethics. As always we invite you as our readers to send us your suggestions and feedback to [info@cbhd.org](mailto:info@cbhd.org).



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## Some of the Top Bioethics Stories of 2008: A Recap

Compiled by Kirsten Riggan, Research Assistant

The year 2008 was an eventful year in the fields of science, medicine, and government in the United States and abroad. Many of these events and discoveries present significant bioethical challenges, while others are advances in promoting the value and dignity of human life. Several of these challenges surround the results of the November 2008 election, while others include recent medical and scientific discoveries. We offer the following as a compilation of some of the top bioethics stories of 2008.

1. **"Montana Judge Endorses Right to Assisted Suicide"** by Associated Press *New York Times*, December 6, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
A Montana judge has ruled that doctor-assisted suicide is legal in the state, but the decision is likely to be appealed. The judge, Dorothy McCarter, issued the ruling late Friday in the case of a Billings man with terminal cancer who had sued the state. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/07/health/07montana.html?bl&ex=1228798800&en=8a47220b90bc54e4&ei=5087%0A>)

This ruling if upheld legalizes physician-assisted suicide through an individual judge, instead of through the legislature. The ruling is pending appeal to the Montana Supreme Court. If the ruling stands, Montana will become the third state in the U.S. to legalize physician-assisted suicide and the first to do so through a non-legislative act.

2. **"Vatican condemns cloning, stem cell research"** *AFP*, December 12, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
The Vatican on Friday condemned techniques that manipulate embryos including cloning and stem cell research, saying they undermine human dignity. (<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hkvig14vZUYmaSGRQsfBdazehg>)

*Dignitas Personae* is the first instruction in 20 years given by the Vatican on the use of reproductive technology and the status of the embryo.

3. **"Doctors transplant windpipe with stem cells"** by Michelle Roberts, *BBC*, November 19, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
Surgeons in Spain have carried out the world's first tissue-engineered whole organ transplant - using a windpipe made with the patient's own stem cells. The groundbreaking technology also means for the first time tissue transplants can be carried out without the need for anti-rejection drugs. (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7735696.stm>)
4. **"OK to rent womb in India"** by P. Jayaram, *Straits Times*, Accessed January 24, 2009  
India's Supreme Court has not only confirmed what everyone already knew, that surrogacy is a commercial industry in the country, but it also ruled that renting a womb is legal. ([http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory\\_286442.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory_286442.html))

This transplant is the first of its kind and highlights the effectiveness of adult stem cells in this type of transplant, demonstrating promise for other transplants.

This ruling legalizes gestational surrogacy in India giving legitimacy to a thriving industry that promotes international "fertility tourism." This industry is viewed by many as exploitive of poor women in addition to the complications introduced by the practice of surrogacy in general.

5. **"Wash. voters approve assisted suicide initiative"** by Curt Woodward, *Seattle Times*, November 4, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
Voters approved Initiative 1000 on Tuesday, making Washington the second state to give terminally ill people the option of medically assisted suicide. The ballot measure, patterned after Oregon's "Death with Dignity" law, allows a terminally ill person to be prescribed lethal medication, which would be self-administered. ([http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2008352565\\_apwaassistedsuicide2ndldwritethru.html](http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/localnews/2008352565_apwaassistedsuicide2ndldwritethru.html))

Upon passage of this initiative, Washington became the second state after Oregon to legalize physician-assisted suicide in the United States. The passage of this initiative also causes concern that physician-assisted suicide is becoming an increasingly accepted practice within the U.S.

6. **"Michigan Voters Approve Stem Cell Measure"** *Associated Press*, November 5, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
Supporters of a ballot measure that loosens restrictions on embryonic stem cell research say its passage means millions of dollars in research grants will come into the state -- and medical breakthroughs for a host of ailments will come out of it. Michigan voters on Tuesday approved Proposal 2, which changes state law to allow people to donate embryos left over from fertility treatments for scientific research. ([http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2008/11/michigan\\_voters\\_approve\\_stem\\_c.html](http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2008/11/michigan_voters_approve_stem_c.html))

The passage of this measure is significant, since exit polls demonstrated an increased acceptance of embryonic stem cell research and opposition to the tactics taken by the pro-life advocates trying to defeat this measure.

7. **"Half of Doctors Routinely Prescribe Placebos"** by Gardiner Harris, *New York Times*, October 23, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
Half of all American doctors responding to a nationwide survey say they regularly prescribe placebos to patients. The results trouble medical ethicists, who say more research is needed to determine whether doctors must deceive patients in order for placebos to work. ([http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/24/health/24placebo.html?\\_r=1&hp&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/24/health/24placebo.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin))
8. **"Source Of Multipotent Stem Cells With Broad Regenerative Potential identified"** *Science Daily*, September 24, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
In a promising finding for the field of regenerative medicine, stem cell researchers at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC have identified a source of adult stem cells found on the walls of blood vessels with the unlimited potential to differentiate into human tissues such as bone, cartilage and muscle. (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/09/080922122429.htm>)

This study is troubling to many who fear that the doctor-patient relationship is placed in jeopardy due to the deception involved in prescribing placebos.

This was another significant discovery in the field of adult stem cell research. This discovery is the first to identify multipotent stem cells known as pericytes. In this study, these cells demonstrated the ability to repair injured muscle tissue suggesting that they have significant potential for use in regenerative medicine.

9. **"Skin cells produce library of diseased stem cells"** by Maggie Fox, *Reuters*, August 7, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
U.S. stem cell experts have produced a library of the powerful cells using ordinary skin and bone marrow cells from patients, and said on Thursday they would share them freely with other researchers. They used a new method to re-program ordinary cells so they look and act like embryonic stem cells — the master cells of the body with the ability to produce any type of tissue or blood cell. (<http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSN0731595620080807>)

These induced pluripotent (IPS) cell lines came from patients with incurable genetic diseases such as ALS, Parkinson's and type 1 diabetes in order to better understand the pathophysiology of these diseases. The creation of this library highlights the incredible benefit of IPS cells in the understanding and hopefully treatment of inherited genetic diseases.

10. **"Researchers Question Wide Use of HPV Vaccines"** by Elisabeth Rosenthal, *New York Times*, August 20, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
Two vaccines against cervical cancer are being widely used without sufficient evidence about whether they are worth their high cost or even whether they will effectively stop women from getting the disease, two articles in this week's *New England Journal of Medicine* conclude. ([http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/21/health/21vaccine.html?\\_r=1&partner=MYWAY&ei=5065&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/21/health/21vaccine.html?_r=1&partner=MYWAY&ei=5065&oref=slogin))

This study highlights the lack of evidence regarding the long-term effectiveness of the HPV vaccines against cervical cancer. More study will be needed in order to determine if these vaccines will be successful in reducing the rate of cervical cancer.

11. **"Scientists Reprogram Adult Cells' Function: Advance Stirs Up Debate on Embryos"** by Rob Stein, *Washington Post*, August 28, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009

Scientists have transformed one type of fully developed adult cell directly into another inside a living animal, a startling advance that could lead to cures for a variety of illnesses and sidestep the political and ethical quagmires associated with embryonic stem cell research. (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/27/AR2008082701829.html>)

While this study involved mice, this discovery shows significant promise for use in regenerative medicine in humans. Pro-life advocates welcome this discovery since it appears to eliminate the need for embryonic stem cell research.

12. **"The Ethics of Testing Embryos for Disease"** by Roger Fortuna and Joann Brady, *ABC News*, June 20, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
A London doctor used genetic screening to help a woman conceive Britain's first baby guaranteed to be free of hereditary breast cancer. The 27-year-old woman decided to have her embryos screened for an inherited gene that would have left the baby with a 50 percent chance of developing breast cancer. The woman has a long history of breast cancer in her family, and her husband tested positive for the gene. (<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/OnCall/story?id=5275445&page=1>)  
  
This was a highly publicized case of the use of in vitro fertilization with pre-implantation genetic diagnosis to screen for hereditary disease. This case is significant since PGD, normally used to test for congenital disorders, was used in this instance to screen for the BRCA-1 gene, which increases an individual's risk of developing breast cancer.
13. **"Research Finds Wide Disparities in Health Care by Race and Region"** by Kevin Sack, *New York Times*, June 5, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
Race and place of residence can have a staggering impact on the course and quality of the medical treatment a patient receives, according to new research showing that blacks with diabetes or vascular disease are nearly five times more likely than whites to have a leg amputated and that women in Mississippi are far less likely to have mammograms than those in Maine. ([http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/05/health/research/05disparities.html?\\_r=2&partner=MYWAY&ei=5065&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/05/health/research/05disparities.html?_r=2&partner=MYWAY&ei=5065&oref=slogin))  
  
This is a significant study indicating serious inequality of healthcare and medical treatment between regions in the United States. The study also identified such factors as race, education, poverty, variation in medical practice and spending as contributing to health care disparities.
14. **"Scientist team creates first GM human embryo"** by Sarah Kate Templeton, *Times Online*, May 11, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
Scientists have created what is believed to be the first genetically modified (GM) human embryo. A team from Cornell University in New York produced the GM embryo to study how early cells and diseases develop. It was destroyed after five days. (<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/science/article3908516.ece>)  
  
This is the first genetically modified human embryo to be created. While this embryo was created for research purposes, many fear that the creation of GM embryos will be created for reproductive purposes in the future.
15. **"Carbon nanotubes may be as harmful as asbestos"** by Ann Fernholm, *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 21, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
One of the most promising materials for the future of technology, carbon nanotubes, might be as harmful as asbestos if inhaled, according to a new study published Tuesday in the scientific journal *Nature Nanotechnology*. (<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/05/20/BUDG10P518.DTL&type=science>)  
  
This study causes great concern over the safety of creation and use of carbon nanotubes. More research is needed to understand the effects of carbon nanotubes on the environment.
16. **"UK: Green light for hybrid research"** *BBC*, January 17, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
Regulators have given scientists the green light to create human-animal embryos for research. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority granted permission after a consultation showed the public was "at ease" with the idea. (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7193820.stm>)  
  
Many view the creation of human-animal hybrid embryos as scientifically unnecessary and are opposed to this type of research since it involves the alteration and destruction of human embryos.
17. **"UK's first hybrid embryos created"** by Fergus Walsh, *BBC*, April 1, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009

Scientists at Newcastle University have created part-human, part-animal hybrid embryos for the first time in the UK, the BBC can reveal. The embryos survived for up to three days and are part of medical research into a range of illnesses. (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7323298.stm>)

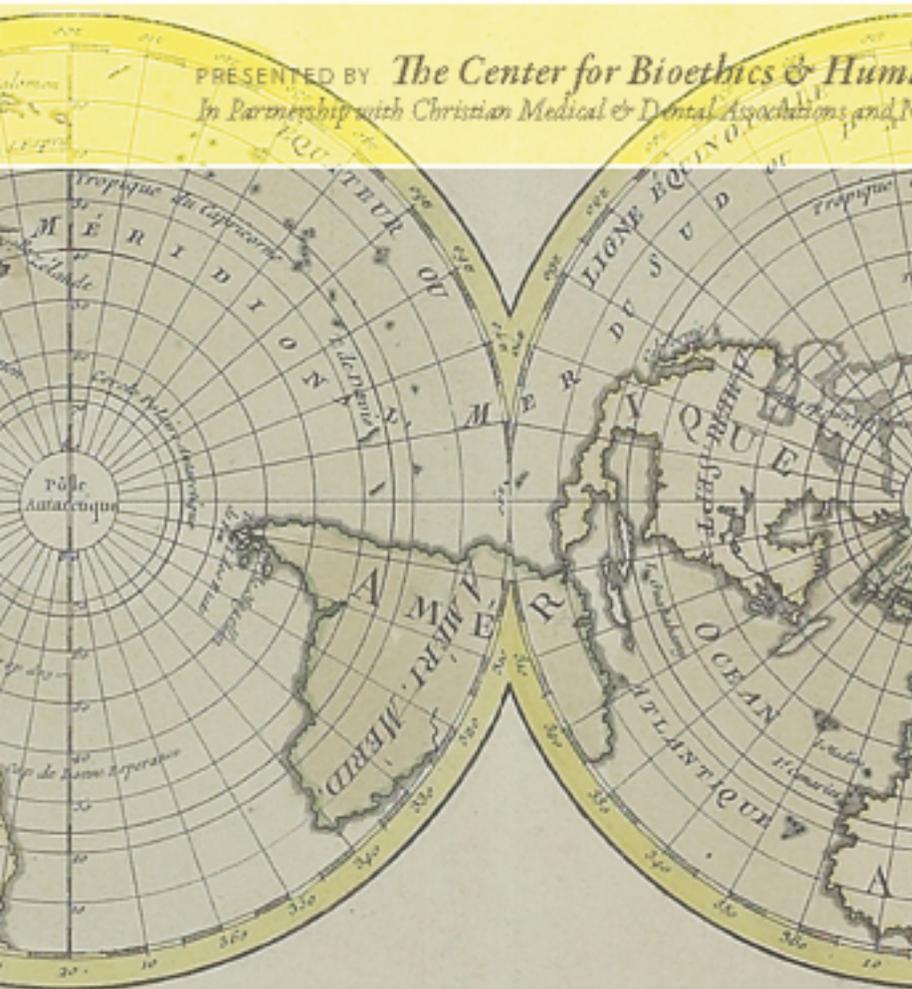
This is the first time a human-animal hybrid embryo has been created in the U.K. The embryos were created with special approval of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority prior to the passage of specific legislation allowing for the creation of these hybrid embryos. This is significant since many feel the HFEA acted outside its jurisdiction by allowing this controversial research.

18. **"Senate passes genetic discrimination bill"** by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, *LA Times*, April 25, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
The Senate unanimously passed landmark legislation today that would outlaw discrimination by health insurance companies and employers because a person's genes raise their risk of breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease or any ailment that has a hereditary component. (<http://articles.latimes.com/2008/apr/25/nation/na-genes25>)  
  
This legislation is the first of its kind. This bill is a step forward to ensure against genetic discrimination by health insurance companies and employers.
19. **"Stem cell breakthrough leaves embryos unharmed"** by Andy Coghlan, *New Scientist*, January 10, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
For the first time, human embryonic stem cells have been obtained without having to destroy the embryos they came from. The breakthrough sidesteps the primary ethical objection to human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research — that embryos must perish to yield up hESCs. (<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn13170-stem-cell-breakthrough-leaves-embryos-unharmed.html>)  
  
This is a significant discovery believed to sidestep the ethical issues of destructive embryonic research. Many individuals, however, are reticent to accept this new method since it may cause possible harm to the embryo and since twinning may still be possible during this stage of embryonic development.
20. **"First Face Transplant Performed in the U.S"** by Lawrence K. Altman, *New York Times*, December 16, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
Cleveland Clinic surgeons have performed the nation's first near total face transplant, officials said on Tuesday. The patient is a woman who was not identified. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/17/health/17face.html?scp=4&sq=face%20transplant&st=cse>)  
  
While this was not the first face transplant performed internationally, it was the most extensive face transplant performed so far. Critics of face transplants cite concern over the protection of the dead donor's identity and the possible psychological effects on the patient if the face transplant is rejected.
21. **"Blood Tests Ease Search for Down Syndrome"** by Andrew Pollack, *New York Times*, October 6, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
For three decades, scientists have been trying to develop a noninvasive prenatal test for Down syndrome that would replace amniocentesis, which can cause miscarriages. Now, scientists using powerful genetic techniques are closing in on that goal with tests that require only a blood sample from the pregnant woman. A biotechnology company in San Diego called Sequenom says it will begin selling such a test next June. (<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/07/health/research/07down.html?scp=1&sq=blood%20test%20for%20down%20syndrome&st=cse>)  
  
While this test would avoid the risk of miscarriage involved in amniocentesis, the development of this test should cause concern, since there is no preventative treatment for Down syndrome and the majority of individuals choose to abort their fetus based upon a positive diagnosis of Down syndrome.
22. **"Baby Girl Born From Full Ovary Transplant"** by Gene Emery, *ABC News*, December 11, 2008, Accessed January 24, 2009  
Doctors in St. Louis said they have successfully transplanted a full ovary from a volunteer, allowing her infertile twin sister to give birth to a healthy baby girl on November 11. It is the first time an entire ovary has been transplanted and resulted in a live birth, the researchers said. Writing in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, they said the method may offer a way to preserve fertility for cancer patients or for women who want to wait until they are older to start families. (<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=6438193>)  
  
This type of transplant shows great promise in allowing women facing the potential of losing ovarian function to preserve fertility, although it also introduces a variety of ethical issues such as the issue of extending the time period when a woman is fertile.

# 16th ANNUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE GLOBAL BIOETHICS

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# CENTER UPDATES

## Resource Updates:

In the Fall 2008 CBHD completed its digital library conversion project in which all of the Center's audio and video resources were converted into electronic media. The resources previously were available for purchase in either cassette, CD, or VHS formats. While we work through the process of making these resources available online, please contact us at [info@cbhd.org](mailto:info@cbhd.org) if you wish to give priority to a particular audio or video resource.

CBHD recently updated several of the topical bibliographies on our flagship website, as well as added a few new topics. These bibliographies can be accessed at [www.cbhd.org/resources](http://www.cbhd.org/resources).

## Fellows Update:

- ✘ William P. Cheshire, Jr. MD, "Till We Have Minds" Today's Christian Doctor Winter 2008, 22-26.
- ✘ Nick Yates, Jr. MD, Nick's Virtual Mentor article (AMA) <http://virtualmentor.ama-assn.org/2008/10/oped1-0810.html>
- ✘ Robert E. Cranston, MD, MA, FAAN, 13 week Bioethics curriculum available for free on the web at [www.FMCNA.org](http://www.FMCNA.org)
- ✘ Donal P. O'Mathuna, PhD, was a guest speaker at Mount Vernon Nazarene University's 14th annual Conference on Bioethical Issues Oct. 30-31, 2008.
- ✘ Jay Hollman MD, developed a Bible Study for Special Needs Parents  
Presented a paper on the ethical issues in US health care reform at the August 2008 American Scientific Affiliation Meeting held at George Fox University.
- ✘ Matthew Eppinette, MBA, MA, co-authored two chapters in The New Media Frontier (Crossway, September 2008): one on podcasting, which grew out of his work on the Center's The Bioethics Podcast, and one on bioethics and blogging, which he co-wrote with former CBHD staffer Joe Carter.
- ✘ Carrie Gordon Earll, release of article, "What We Did Not Know: The Aftermath of Thirty Years of Legal Abortion" on Focus on the Family's Issue Analysis website CitizenLink.

## Staff Update:

Michael Sleasman, PhD

- ✘ Co-led a workshop entitled "Technology and Bioethics for the Disability Community" at the Joni & Friends West Summit in January 2009.
- ✘ Published two essays entitled, "Christianity and the New Technologies" and "Postconservative Theology" in Encyclopedia of Christian Civilization, ed. George Kurian (Blackwell, 2009).

## On the CBHD Bookshelf

A new column for those interested in knowing what books the Center staff have been reading.

- ✘ Elliot, Carl. *Better than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream* (New York: W. W. Norton Co., 2003).
- ✘ \*Englehardt, H. Tristram, ed. *Global Bioethics: The Collapse of Consensus* (Salem, MA: Scrivener Press, 2006).
- ✘ Gascoigne, Robert. *Freedom and Purpose: An Introduction to Christian Ethics* (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2004).
- ✘ Levin, Yuval. *Imagining the Future: Science and American Democracy* (New York: Encounter Books, 2008).
- ✘ Nye, David. *Technology Matters: Questions to Live With* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2006).
- ✘ President's Council on Bioethics. *The Changing Moral Focus of Newborn Screening: An Ethical Analysis by the President's Council on Bioethics* (Washington, D. C.: [www.bioethics.gov](http://www.bioethics.gov), 2008).
- ✘ \*President's Council on Bioethics. *Human Dignity: Essays Commissioned by the President's Council on Bioethics* (Washington, D. C.: [www.bioethics.gov](http://www.bioethics.gov), 2008).
- ✘ Sandel, Michael. *The Case against Perfection: Ethics in the Age of Genetic Engineering* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2007).

## Articles of Note

A new column for those interested in knowing about articles the Center staff found to be provocative or particularly informative relevant to bioethics.

- ✘ Campbell, Courtney. "Ten Years of "Death with Dignity"" *The New Atlantis: A Journal of Technology & Society* Fall 2008: 33-46.
- ✘ Deneen, Patrick. "Technology, Culture, and Virtue" *The New Atlantis: A Journal of Technology & Society* Summer 2008: 63-74.
- ✘ Langer, Richard. "Humans, Commodities, and Humans-in-a-Sense" *Philosophia Christi* 10(1), 2008: 101-118.
- ✘ \*Meilaender, Gilbert. "Human Dignity and Public Bioethics" *The New Atlantis: A Journal of Technology & Society* Summer 2007:33-52.
- ✘ \*Snead, O. Carter. "Assessing The Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights" *The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly* 7(1), 2007: 53-71. The whole issue is devoted to international treaties and protocols.

\* Resources that would be great advanced reading in preparation for the 2009 CBHD Summer Conference, *Global Bioethics: Emerging Challenges Facing Human Dignity*.