



**Concerned Women for America of Illinois presents:**

## **Stem Cell Fact of the Day #6**

***“Using the person's own stem cells, plastic surgeons would create implants from natural body tissue, instead of turning to the synthetic implants used in plastic surgery today.”***

*~ In a presentation made by Jeremy Mao at the American Association for the Advancement of Science on February 17, 2005.*

### **U of I Reports a Person's Own Stem Cells Promise Better Breast Implants/Plastic Surgery**

HealthDay, 2-17-05 (<http://health.yahoo.com/news/58594>)

*[R]esearchers say... incredibly pliable [adult stem] cells may someday help provide patients with breast and facial implants that are both safer and more durable over the long term.*

***Using the person's own stem cells, plastic surgeons would create and shape implants from natural body tissue, instead of turning to the synthetic implants used in plastic surgery today.***

*“Currently, the materials used in reconstructive surgery -- such as after breast cancer -- are synthetic, like silicon or saline implants,” said lead researcher Jeremy J. Mao, an associate professor and director of the Tissue Engineering Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Chicago.. In addition, synthetic implants using collagen are employed in facial reconstructive surgery, wrinkle removal and lip augmentation, he added.*

*Patients and their surgeons continue to voice concern about the materials used in currently available breast implants, which have been known to rupture and leak. In facial plastic surgery, too, materials are less than ideal -- for example, studies show that silicon used in lip and facial reconstruction and cosmetic surgery tends to lose its size and shape over time.*

*The advantage of this new, stem cell-based method is that, when used for wrinkle removal and breast augmentation, the implants will retain their size and shape better than synthetics, according to a presentation researchers made Feb. 17 at the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The data will also appear in the April issue of Tissue Engineering.*

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*CWA endorses adult and umbilical cord stem cell research but condemns embryonic stem cell research as immoral.*

**CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA  
OF ILLINOIS**

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