



Concerned Women for America of Illinois presents:
Stem Cell Fact of the Day #16

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Scientists grow large batches of brain adult stem-cells

Reuters News Service, 6-13-05 (<http://msnbc.msn.com/id/8206108>)

WASHINGTON - Scientists working in mice said they had found a way to identify master [adult stem] cells in the brain and grow them in large batches — a potential way of helping patients grow their own brain tissue transplants.

The scientists said they had found a process to make the cells multiply, which would be crucial in fighting degenerative brain diseases like Parkinson’s and Huntington’s.

The study is one of many focusing on stem cells — the elusive progenitor cells that are found in all tissue and in blood, but which are difficult to identify.

... These so-called adult stem cells could come from a patient himself so no donor and no immune system suppressing drugs would be needed.

“As far as regenerating parts of the brain that have degenerated, such as in Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s disease and others of that nature, the ability to regenerate the needed cell type and placing it in the correct spot would have major impact,” said Dr. Eric Holland, a neurosurgeon at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

... Such cells may also play an important role in cancer, so understanding how they work is important, Holland said.

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

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