

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brenda Landwehr at 1:30 PM on Monday, March 5, 2012 in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

- Representative Weber – Excused
- Representative Donohoe – Excused
- Representative Winn – Excused
- Representative Bethell – Excused
- Representative Otto – Excused
- Representative Trimmer - Excused

Committee staff present:

- Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
- Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Joseph Leiker, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Debbie Bartuccio, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

- Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook ([Attachment 1](#))
- Dr. Richard Burt, Division of Immunotherapy and Autoimmune Disease, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine ([Attachment 2](#))
- Dr. Omar Aljitawi, M.D., Assistant Professor, Blood and Marrow Transplant Program, University of Kansas Medical Center ([Attachment 3](#))
- Dr. Dana Winegarner, D.O., MidAmerica Neuroscience Institute, Consultants In Neurology, PC ([Attachment 4](#))
- Dr. David Prentice, Ph.D., Senior Fellow for Life Sciences, Family Research Council, Adjunct Professor of Molecular Genetics, John Paul II Institute, Catholic University Of America, Founding Member, Do No Harm: The Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics ([Attachments 5 and 6](#))

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Representative Landwehr opened the educational meeting on Stem Cell Treatment.

Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook stated technology is moving very rapidly and the information age is moving us along at a very fast clip. This will be an educational hearing, with several prominent physicians and a world-renowned scientist, focused on stem-cell treatments. She believed the presentations would help motivate the legislature to develop a vision for Kansas to be at the

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## CONTINUATION SHEET

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center of stem-cell technology. She also shared information concerning the presence of Huntington's Disease in her family. ([Attachment 1](#))

Dr. Richard Burt discussed 1) various autoimmune diseases and patient requirements and 2) using the patient's own stem cells for treatment and the need to only treat the patient one time. He also reviewed a number of clinical trials and published results, including film clips which demonstrated patients before and after their treatment. ([Attachment 2](#))

Dr. Omar Aljitiawi, M.D. reviewed different types of stem cells, with particular emphasis on umbilical cord blood stem cells. The first successful umbilical cord blood transplant occurred in 1988. Multipotent stem cells can differentiate into a variety of cell types. Induced pluripotent stem cells are an alternative to embryonic stem cells. There are multiple stem cells sources with diverse differentiation potential. Umbilical cord blood represents a viable stem cell source for curative transplantation. Umbilical cord blood stem cells and Wharton's Jelly mesenchymal stromal cells are being investigated for use in several regenerative medicine applications. KU and other regional institutions have been involved in stem cell research. Research that involves discarded perinatal tissues represents an example of green investment. ([Attachment 3](#))

Dr. Dana Winegarner discussed a sampling of diseases for which stem cell therapy has emerged or is very likely to emerge in the next few years. ([Attachment 4](#)) These included Parkinson's disease, ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), Stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Coronary Artery Disease, spinal muscular atrophy, corneal blindness, sepsis, or type 1 diabetes. His testimony included the ins and outs of stem cell tourism and made the following low-cost suggestions for helping Kansas move forward in the world of stem cell therapy:

- Declare Stem Cell Day
- Website for:
  - Information dissemination regarding new treatments.
  - Information dissemination regarding/clarifying stem cell related news stories in the press.
  - Legal stories regarding stem cell clinics and stem cell procedures including FBI and FDA information.
  - Links to [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov).
  - News items summarizing information from the medical literature, NIH and other sources.
- Bipartisan joint resolution signed by the governor requesting that CME and nursing education providers in the state incorporate education about stem cell treatments into their future courses.

Dr. David Prentice stated adult stem cells are already being used clinically to treat many diseases in human patients. This is a fact that many Kansans, the public and physicians alike, do not know. The lack of knowledge affects health as well as life. There have been a few attempts to educate people about the possibilities and availabilities of stem cell treatments. For example, the

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Cell Therapy Foundation has used famous actor Dick Van Dyke to make people aware of stem cell therapies. But patients also need to be aware of the risks involved, and learn the difference between legitimate treatments and clinical trials, backed by published scientific evidence and good technique, versus possible scams, especially via the internet, that would likely only take their money. At this point, there are few sources of information for patients or physicians. One that is often used is the website [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov), run by the FDA and NHA. He reviewed a number of success stories using stem cell treatment, including a stem cell skin gun used in treating burn patients. (Attachments 5 and 6)

A common theme from all the presenters was the need to provide educational information to both physicians and patients and to encourage the pursuit of stem cell research and treatment in Kansas.

After all questions from the committee were addressed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2012.