

# Fiction

"... California's Institute for Regenerative Medicine supports only [embryonic stem cell] projects ... [which kill] embryos ... cultured for ... [up to] 12 days ... meaning they never develop complex structure..." Janet Rowley, MD, Professor of Medicine, University of Chicago, "Embryonic Stem Cell Research Does Too Much Good to Be Evil ..." *U.S. News & World Report*, March 23, 2009.

# Fact

By day 1, the DNA of the single-cell embryo (zygote) contains so much "complex structure" (with 3 billion base pairs of data) that listing the first letter of each base (adenine, guanine, thymine or cytosine) would require over 1.5 million pages of text, Endowment For Human Development, [ehd.org/resources\\_bpd\\_documentation](http://ehd.org/resources_bpd_documentation).

By day 22, the embryo's heart begins to beat, Wisser & Dirschedl, "Embryonic Heart Rate In Dated Human Embryos," *Early Human Development*, Vol. 37, Issue 2, p.p. 107-115, 1994.

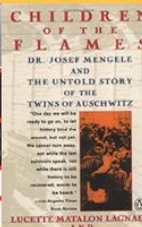
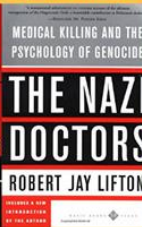
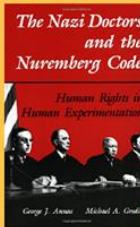
By day 42, brain wave activity, as measured by EEG, "appears to be reliably present in the ... [embryo] at about ... six weeks after conception." J. Goldenring, "Development of the Fetal Brain," *New England Journal of Medicine*, Aug. 26, 1982, p. 564.

## U.C. Irvine, Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center

*The Nazi Doctors & The Nuremberg Code* Recounts The Rationale For Genocide Which Masquerades As Science: Victims Weren't Really People, Going to Die Anyway, Research For Common Good, Lawful, Every Country Doing It



Peter Donovan, Ph.D.



Hans Keirstead, Ph.D.

## When We Kill Our Children To Cure Our Sickness We Lose Our Souls



0 Weeks    2 Weeks    4 Weeks    6 Weeks    7 Weeks    8 Weeks    9 Weeks    10 Weeks    11 Weeks    12 Weeks    26 Weeks    38 Weeks

## At What Age Does Lethal Experimentation Become *Genocide*?

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"Rock star" embryonic researcher protests his photo in pro-life display at UCI



The [Center For Bio-Ethical Reform](#) conducted its [Genocide Awareness Project](#) at the [University of California, Irvine](#), on April 19 and 20.

There was an interesting flare-up. UCI is professional home to **Dr. Hans Keirstead**, co-director of the [Sue and Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center](#). According to [Wikipedia](#), Keirstead is spearheading the first FDA approved human trial of injecting embryonic stem cells into spinal-cord patients.

So Keirstead is all about human embryo experimentation, which is also his claim to fame. Enter CBR with a provocative sign that included Keirstead's photo which eventually attracted a furious Dr. Keirstead to the GAP display...



Following read CBR Exec. Dir. **Gregg Cunningham's** fascinating account of the 2 hour altercation....

Hans Keirstead's main arguments were exactly the ones used by the **Nazi** doctors who were doing lethal experiments on **Jews**. Their victims were subhuman, they were destined to die anyway, it was all legal, other countries were doing it and it would benefit all mankind to find cures for dread diseases. He was standing in front of a sign with the covers of the books quoting those exact arguments and the irony was totally lost on him. He just stood there parroting propaganda like a programmed robot.



Keirstead deliberately used dehumanizing rhetoric to refer to the babies, alternately calling them “the products of united sperm and egg cells” and “fertilized eggs.” I told him he was doing what racists do when they dehumanize blacks with the “N” word or **anti-Semites** when they use the “K” word to slur their Jewish victims. The fertilized egg reference wasn't even the biologically correct term for embryos at the stage at which he is killing them. When Keirstead tried to deny that he was personally killing them I asserted that he was at least complicit in their killing and he changed the subject. I also reminded him that the term “embryo” describes a stage of life, not a type of life.

Keirstead constantly tried to shift the debate to technical grounds on which he felt he had some advantage. He blasted us with scientific jargon which described arcane research processes with which he hoped to cloud the ethical issues. We kept forcing him back to the morality of killing one human being for the benefit of another.



Keirstead was very upset that the sign on which his picture appeared also depicted aborted babies of all ages along a developmental continuum. He said he worked only with “blastocysts” and not fetuses. I told him I was a lawyer and invited him to sue me. We said that ages of his victims were irrelevant to his culpability for killing them. I am certain that he supports abortion rights without trimester limits, which makes all the more dishonest the fact that he sought refuge in his claim to be involved in the killing of only very young babies. He said we don’t use fetal tissue and I responded, “Whether that is true or not, there are many researchers who do.”

When I criticized “clone-to-kill” procedures Keirstead said “that isn’t legal here” and I said “it is in the U.K.” and in fact there is no legal prohibition against it here, but it is limited only by funding restrictions. I did not take him into a discussion of the bogus ethical distinction between “therapeutic cloning” (creating cloned babies for body parts and killing them before they become “human”) and “reproductive cloning” (creating cloned babies to implant and carry to term). Then Keirstead would fall back on the usual “form and function” arguments such as a lack of “sentience,” which are so easily knocked back by reminding him that he will be rendered “insentient” when he falls asleep tonight but he will gain sentience when he awakens and his victims would gain sentience when they are born, if he doesn’t kill them first. Keirstead also derided adult stem cell research as inferior in its potential to deliver therapeutic applications but I countered that for the sake of argument, even if that were true, embryonic stem cell harvesting still kills babies.



Keirstead also kept mischaracterizing our remarks to set up straw man arguments he could more easily invalidate. He said we were against IVF despite the fact that I had clearly stated our belief that IVF should be regulated by banning the creation of more embryos than a particular mother intends to implant and carry to term in a particular pregnancy. He said these embryos can't be suspended in a frozen state indefinitely and I said then let's promote embryo adoption and spend money trying to find better ways to save them instead of better ways to kill them. Then he repeated, "So your problem is you are against IVF," and I said, "No, our problem is we are against YOU and the fact that you killing babies."

Keirstead was particularly angry that I had used his photo on the sign (and in fact, one pro-life student refused to join the pro-life student group sponsoring the display because of our use of the photo), but it was very clear that he wouldn't have come out for two hours or perhaps at all had we not angered him. He said, "Why didn't you just invite me to come out here," and of course the answer is that our sign was his invitation. I resisted the temptation to ask what had taken him so long to come out and confront us. I again reminded that he was more than welcome to sue me if he thought I had broken the law. What better way to focus attention on our cause! I also told him that he was spending public money to kill babies at public university and thereby forfeited any reasonable expectation of privacy.

Keirstead repeatedly said we had no business revisiting these issues because this debate had already been conducted and his side has won with the passage of a ballot initiative appropriating billions of dollars to fund his work. I said this debate has only just begun. He said we have already educated people about these issues and I said you have lied to them and we are here to set the record straight. I told him that his arguments that we should take our signs somewhere where people wanted to see them were reminiscent of racists telling **Martin Luther King** he should take his message to the black church and not bother white people.

I hammered Keirstead for an [article in the Orange County Register](#) which quoted him as telling the father of a famous motorcycle racer who had been paralyzed in a racing accident that he could cure him in five to seven years [click to enlarge]...



THE ORANGE COUNTY BETA  
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## Paralyzed athletes pin hopes on UCI researcher

By [GREG HARDESTY](#)  
2007-07-27 03:00:00

[snip]

Keirstead is a sort of rock star in the field of human embryonic stem cell research. His findings have been featured on "60 Minutes," and his work has been published in leading journals.

[snip]

Rick James Sr., Ricky's father, recalls cold-calling the UCI professor after hearing about his research.

"Keep your son healthy and make sure he stays as physically active as possible," Keirstead told James over the phone.

"In five to seven years, I will fix him," Keirstead added.

James then wept.

I accused him of fraud in making such an outrageous claim to manipulate a desperate victim who later gave him a \$200,000 research grant. He said, "You say I said that, but that isn't what I told **Ricky James**." I said, "I didn't say that is what you said. I said that is what the newspaper quoted you as saying." He said, "They printed a retraction." I said, "Show it to me." Then he hedged and said, "Well, you should talk to Ricky James to learn what was actually said." I said you have the burden to disprove the accuracy of the newspaper quote, I do not have the burden to prove it. He changed the subject. I didn't take him into the esoteric law of defamation (he is a public figure and arguably a public official substantially raising his barriers to a successful suit) as he kept trying to take me into the esoteric process of stem cell research.

The whole time was essentially a circular repetition of those exchanges, but Keirstead seemed mesmerized by the experience. I kept expecting him to walk away in disgust, but he stood there for two full hours of back-and-forth and he was getting pummeled. By the end of the exchange, I am sure he was having second thoughts about the wisdom of his bold challenge to a public debate with us, which was how he began his confrontation with us. But we aren't to let him off the hook. We will debate for killing babies or we will mock him for being a coward. Despite the fact that he is one of the world's most prominent embryonic stem cell researchers at one of the world's most influential stem cell research institutes, his poor performance against us was a function of the fact that he had obviously never been challenged so aggressively and the fact that he doesn't have an ethical leg on which to stand.

## THE CENTER FOR BIO-ETHICAL REFORM POLICY STATEMENT ON EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

The book, *The Nazi Doctors and the Nuremberg Code*, Annas & Grodin, Oxford Univ. Press, U.S., 1995 reports that Nazi physicians who performed experiments on death camp inmates attempted to defend their actions at trial by arguing, in pertinent part, that:

1. Their research did kill Jewish inmates but it advanced the cause of medical science.
2. The Jewish research subjects were going to be killed anyway so why throw away the opportunity improve the health of the larger society.
3. Many other countries were performing lethal research on inmates.
4. This research was lawful at the time.
5. Physicians who didn't participate were putting their lives at risk.

The Nazis wouldn't say it at Nuremberg but they also believed Jews were subhuman. StemCellGo.com, the website of a prominent embryonic stem cell advocacy group makes this same subhuman argument by contending that the victim of embryonic research is "a very early embryo, a small ball of a few cells, smaller than a period on a page." The notion that the size of physical features determines a victim's humanity is reminiscent of a January 27, 2005 news.BBC.co.uk article titled "Rwanda remembers the Holocaust:" It quotes a Rwandan genocide memorial visitor who observes that "It shows how the Nazis started segregating people and it shows the way they measured the nose and eyes to show that they were different people. 'In Rwanda when they were killing Tutsis they did the same thing. They measured the nose. They were measuring the eyes, heights and its is very similar.'"

StemCellGo.com adds that embryonic stem cell research is justified because it advances the cause of medical science and the research subjects are going to be killed anyway. And on March 9, 2009, President Obama sought to justify embryonic stem cell research by saying that many other countries are doing it.

Stem cell scientists may not fear for their existence but many do fear for their professional lives. John B. Shea, at LifeIssues.net, "Freedom of Conscience in the Practice of Medicine," says of scientists forced to participate in embryonic stem cell research, "Many may fear that their careers may suffer if they are not perceived to be team players."

It is simply a lie to say that these embryos must be discarded. There is a robust embryo adoption program in this country and it needs to be better organized and funded. Embryos can be adopted and successfully implanted into the uteri of adoptive mothers. Improved means of transferring and saving these embryos should be the focus of our research, not devising new means of killing embryos.

Even the development of stem cell lines by removing cells from embryos in a supposedly non-lethal procedure is ethically problematic. This process is a variant of "pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD)" and involves the removal of one or two cells from a human embryo at three days following fertilization, which is the blastomere or cleavage stage of development. At this point the embryo's body is comprised of eight cells. This is the stage at which PGD is performed 94% of the time. This

process supposedly doesn't kill the baby but the removal of up to one quarter of the tissue in the child's body must surely pose risks which have not been fully ascertained to date.

Why are we freezing unborn children? One is reminded of the Nazi doctors who froze Jewish death camp inmates in gruesome experiments. Why are we amputating tissue from unborn children in processes reminiscent of the Nazi doctors who amputated the limbs of Jewish death camp inmates in research designed to measure the length of time it would take them to die.

President Obama says his removal of the ban on using federal funds for embryonic stem cell research will not lead to the cloning of human beings but this process is already legal in the United Kingdom, where research has already created the first human-animal hybrids (Guardian.co.uk, April 2, 2008).

It may strain credulity to compare born Jews with human embryos but in 1943, most Germans denied the humanity of the Jews being killed in concentration camps just as strenuously as most Americans today deny the humanity of the embryos being killed in research labs. That view of Jews seems crude and barbaric today and so it will someday be with that same view of human embryos.