Dear Friends and Family of the Preborn Child,

The Obama Administration is on the fast track to approve "Three Parent In Vitro Fertilization" (TPIVF) for our nation. They are doing this NOT by having their liberal sympathizers propose legislation in the Congress. They are NOT even doing this by submitting the question to the National Institute of Health which back in 1994 was given the question of human embryo experimentation by the Clinton administration. NIH held public hearings as they are required to do. The hearings were open. The proceedings were transcribed and printed in the Federal Register as is required by law.

We brought suit to halt human embryo experimentation in 1994 and with an Appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, the suit effectively held it at bay for the balance of the Clinton administration until President Bush took office and issued an executive order prohibiting human embryo experimentation with a narrowly circumscribed exception that he outlined in his speech to the nation on August 9, 2001.

As we know, when President Obama was elected, he immediately issued his own executive order; countermanding President Bush’s and giving the green light for human embryo experimentation to go forward.

In pressing to go forward with three parent human embryos and hence three parent children, the administration is cleverly bypassing both the Congress and NIH and has handed the question off instead to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We think of the FDA as ordinarily approving the safety of a new antibiotic or drug. The FDA has itself turned to something called the "Institute of Medicine" (IOM) for an "ethics opinion" on 3 parent embryos. The IOM is an independent non-profit organization that works outside of the federal government and

"THE GOD WHO GAVE US LIFE GAVE US LIBERTY AT THE SAME TIME"...THOMAS JEFFERSON
therefore is not required to publish its proceedings in the Federal Register. Congress reads the Federal Register, but none of this is showing up in the Federal Register. How many members of the Congress even know what’s going on? Most of the hearings held by the Institute of Medicine are closed sessions and when they are open, they choose ahead of time who will be allowed to speak.

Karen Betts in our office has been doing her best to ascertain what’s going on at these sessions held by the Institute of Medicine. Enclosed is a very informative memo she’s written me on this. Karen also ran across a blog by Chelsea Zimmerman, a very astute writer and editor for some Catholic publications, which is enclosed for your edification.

One can view a video and agenda of the meetings of the Institute of Medicine at:

http://www.iom.edu/Activities/Research/MitoEthics.aspx

For more information contact Michael Berrios, 202-334-3494, Keck Center, 500 Fifth St., NW, Washington DC 20001, Email: MitoEthics@nas.edu

The next meeting of the IOM is scheduled for May 19 at 10 am. One hour will be allowed for public comment. Anyone wishing to sign up may, but they will receive only 3 minutes apiece. And the two remaining meetings after that are closed to the public.

In truth, they don’t want public input. In truth, they’ve made up their minds ahead of time. In truth, they are only pretending that there is a well thought out and balanced decision making process here. Transparency has had the drawstring of the blackout curtains pulled around it.

Congress needs to be informed and this matter taken out of the hands of the FDA and taken up by the Congress itself as representatives of the people where it properly belongs.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

R. Martin Palmer

R. Martin Palmer
P.S. During IOM Meeting 2, Session 4, Michio Hirano, MD, Professor of Neurology and Neuromuscular Disease at Columbia University Medical Center, shared results from a survey given women regarding their attitude towards the use of three-parent in vitro fertilization in mitochondrial DNA defects. When questioned by Co-Chairman Dr. Alan Cherney if there were any surprises in the survey results, Dr. Michio responded, "... I was actually surprised how overwhelmingly positive people were about this. I thought more people might object for religious reasons, but very few did. We had a couple of people who refused because they had to discuss it with religious leaders."

This response should make us stop and think. Who knows about this? How explanatory was the information regarding TPIVF on the survey, or is this, as Dr. Cherney suggested in his question "a survey geared toward a positive marketing tool"?

The Administration has cleverly hidden the whole thing. This is very clever indeed!
DATE: April 22, 2015
TO: Martin Palmer, Esq.
FROM: Karen Betts:
RE: “Sessions held by the Institute of Medicine on Ethical and Social Policy
Considerations of Novel Techniques for Prevention of Maternal Transmission of
Mitochondrial DNA Diseases”

I have been reviewing information regarding the referenced sessions held by the Institute of
Medicine at the request of the Food and Drug Administration discussing Three Parent In Vitro
Fertilization.

I am concerned that these Sessions are not particularly forthcoming with information regarding
the very serious concerns of this embryo invasion. There are too many life altering questions
remaining for immediate and future health risks to the donor, mother and embryo. There are
also many questions remaining as to whether any success can come from this procedure. It is
clear that there will be the destruction of embryos from this as well, both in the research and the
actual process. The alteration of an embryo crosses the germ-line policies that have been in
effect for a number of years between many countries. Among my concerns is that there is very
little circulated information to the public regarding this procedure and I have been informed that
this has not, nor will it be, published in the Federal Register. Why has the public not been
adequately informed that a decision and its impact on the future of reproduction are on the table
for discussion? Shouldn’t there be a clear explanation of what this procedure entails, and
shouldn’t we be made aware of the questionable outcomes to be expected. Why has there been
minimal attempt to make information available for public review and input prior to any decision
being made on this matter?

There are “Closed Sessions” to the public on the discussions that will lead to the
recommendations the IOM will submit to the FDA, and from the amount of video footage
available for public viewing of the “Open Sessions”, it would seem that there is a prevailing
attempt to forge ahead in spite of many concerns and lack of knowledge of the outcome. It
suggests that it is not so much what they are answering in these meetings, as it is what they are
not questioning. The extensive use of medical terminology in these sessions does not make the
material particularly understandable to the general public. However, in my opinion, the lack of
attention to “treading slowly and moving forward cautiously gives an impression of decisions
that could be unbalanced and biased in favor of going full speed ahead with the Three Parent In
Vitro Fertilization, even though there is not an apparent conviction of a compelling positive
outcome.
About Me

My name is Chelsea Zimmerman; I am the editor-in-chief of CatholicLane.com. I am also a managing editor for Ignitum Today and Catholic Stand. I often write about life issues and Catholic spirituality.

Born and raised Catholic, I am constantly striving to deepen my faith and strengthen my relationship with Christ and the Church. I have a strong devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the rosary, enjoy spiritual reading, spending time in front of the Blessed Sacrament, frequent confession and going to daily Mass.

In 1999, when I was a junior in high school, I received a spinal cord injury in a car accident that left me paralyzed from the chest down. I have a beautiful, blessed life, but not a day goes by that I don’t face some new challenge or limitation. The idea for the name of this blog actually came from an email that I sent out to friends and family on the sixth anniversary of my injury.
Human Beings Are Not Science Experiments

I never cared much for science in school. At all. And, yet, last week I found myself sitting in front of my computer for a day and a half listening to public workshops at the Institute of Medicine on “Ethical and Social Policy Considerations of Novel Techniques for Prevention of Maternal Transmission of Mitochondrial DNA Diseases” — AKA “Three-Parent IVF”

The majority of speakers and panelists were clearly sympathetic to moving forward with this technology here in the states. The presentations were decidedly more scientific than they were ethical. And, I must admit, it was often very difficult to listen to so many otherwise brilliant people discuss the creation and manipulation of human life in such cold, calculating terms, no matter how altruistic their intentions.

During last week’s deliberations I was struck by a few things:

1. I was reminded of something I heard Dr. Gil Wilshire with Mid-Missouri Reproductive Medicine and Surgery in Columbia, MO say a few years ago that really got under my skin: “We need three things: a good egg, some good sperm and a good uterus. And we can mix and match these.”

This is the world we live in. The creation of new human life is nothing more than a biological formula — a science experiment, rather than the mysterious fruit of a loving act between husband and wife.

Even when the motivation is to eradicate disease, there’s something profoundly troubling and distasteful to this approach to human procreation. Creating disease-free people (ideally)? The term Brave New World gets thrown around a lot these days, but this really is eerily close to Huxley’s dystopian vision.

2. It was also clear from some of the testimony that nascent human life is being created, manipulated and destroyed far more often than we realize in laboratories all around the world — especially in the U.S. We don’t hear about it because its all pure experimentation and scientists don’t generally talk about their research with the public unless they’ve made some significant discovery.

But, as long as there are absolutely no restrictions on human embryonic experimentation, scientists can and will use nascent human beings as science experiments (and that’s just what children conceived via ‘3-parent IVF’ will be, experiments). If we do nothing they will clone — in fact, they are today!

If there is a silver lining to any of this it’s that, at least in regard to this technology — “three parent IVF” or what you will now see solely referred to by the scientific community as “mitochondrial donation” or “mitochondrial transfer” (MT) — we still have an opportunity to make our voices heard. To at least try to influence our policy makers before they change the course of humanity forever.

I hate to sound like a broken record, but if you have not done so, yet, I encourage you to let the FDA know how you feel about the genetic modification of future generations. It is my understanding that they will be accepting public comments for a few more months.

Click on “Provide FEEDBACK on this project” at this link or email your response to MitoEthics@nas.edu. If you need help, my friend Rebecca Taylor has posted a sample letter that you can use.

Share this:

http://reflectionsofaparalytic.com/?p=11577
What and Why: Meeting of Institute of Medicine
The Food and Drug Administration called on the Institute of Medicine to deliberate approval of a new and unproven technique called “Three Parent In Vitro Fertilization” whereby science is attempting to create a new embryo with two mothers and one father.

Two of five sessions have been held. One session remains that will be open to the public for one hour. The final two closed sessions will determine the recommendation to be submitted to the FDA. This is a call to action before this process is approved. You may register for the open public meeting:

Date: May 19, 2015, 10:00 am, “Final Meeting Open to the Public”

Meeting Location: The National Academies
Keck Center
500 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Registration: Registration form and further information is found on the Institute of Medicine website:
http://www.iom.edu/Activities/Research/MitoEthics.aspx
“Ethical and Social Policy Considerations of Novel Techniques Prevention of Maternal Transmission of Mitochondrial DNA Diseases.”

Previous Discussions, and Contacts for Public Opinion:
Videos from previous meetings, how you can submit your opinions, questions, concerns and comments to the committee can also be found on the IOM website:
http://www.iom.edu/Activities/Research/MitoEthics.aspx
“Ethical and Social Policy Considerations of Novel Techniques Prevention of Maternal Transmission of Mitochondrial DNA Diseases.”

And, or: Make your voice heard by referencing the above sited meeting title and writing or calling the Food and Drug Administration:

Call: 1-888-463-6332

Write to: Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002