



May 2020 Newsletter

PLEASE SUPPORT JP2MRI'S COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

Dear Friend:

John Paul II Medical Research Institute is developing an ethically derived vaccine to address the growing COVID-19 pandemic that is impacting the world. In my last newsletter, I introduced how vaccines are generated, the challenges faced by researchers and the novel approach that JP2MRI is using to create a safe and effective vaccine. As of April 30, 2020, there are over 100 COVID-19 vaccine candidates in development globally. While this may seem reassuring, the success rate for new vaccines is only 5 to 10 percent. Moreover, many of the current vaccine candidates are sadly relying on aborted fetal cell lines such as HEK293 (Human Embryonic Kidney cells) and PER.C6 (Embryonic Retinal cells). While the Vatican has approved the use of such vaccines as a last resort, it has also permitted doctors and patients to exercise their moral conscience to refuse such vaccines and stressed the moral need for Catholics to develop ethical cell lines to produce vaccines. JP2MRI has been making great strides to develop new ethical human cell lines to produce a COVID-19 vaccine. In this newsletter, I will provide an update on the progress we are making with our donor's financial support, and explain why we need your continued support in this effort.

The Institute is focused on four major countermeasures to combat the coronavirus pandemic: 1) JP2MRI, in collaboration with Cellular Engineering Technologies, is developing and will manufacture ethical cell lines that are superior to the HEK293 and PER.C6 cell lines. Given that our cell lines will perform better than the current scientific art, it is our hope that pharmaceutical companies will be motivated to replace aborted fetal cells and adopt our cell lines to manufacture their own COVID-19 vaccines; 2) JP2MRI is developing an off-the-shelf antiviral therapy against COVID-19 that will have crossover activity against other viral, bacterial and fungal pathogens; 3) The Institute is one of the few organizations that is co-developing a live attenuated vaccine against COVID-19, a method that is considered the gold-standard in vaccine efficacy; and 4) JP2MRI is co-developing a panel of diagnostic tools that will help to predict whether a person who has received a COVID-19 vaccine will be adequately protected against COVID-19.

We are in an unprecedented time where COVID-19 vaccines are being fast-tracked into clinical trials, even without first being tested for safety and efficacy in animal models. Prior to enrolling in such a trial, the Institute believes there are some very important questions every person should ask. First, you should ask whether an animal study was initially conducted to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the vaccine. Historically, after the earlier SARS and MERS outbreaks, there were several efforts made to evaluate the safety and efficacy of coronavirus vaccines. Typically, the FDA imposes a regulatory procedure called the "Animal Rule" to approve a new treatment against pathogens before allowing clinical trials. The "Animal Rule" requires that anti-infectious therapies need to be first tested in 2 animal models before testing can proceed to a clinical trial. Coronavirus vaccines are commonly tested in mice and ferrets. Some vaccines, when tested in ferrets, developed liver toxicity (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15507655>). Moreover, when animals were subsequently challenged with wild-type coronaviruses, animals displayed a more severe pneumonia than those that did not receive the vaccine (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18941225>). Consequently, prior to enrolling in a vaccine trial, it is recommended that the following questions be asked: 1) Were aborted fetal cells used in the development of this vaccine?; 2) Were animal studies conducted for the vaccine?; 3) How many different animal models were tested using the vaccine?; 4) Were there any toxicity or safety concerns noted with the vaccine?; 5) Were the animals that received the vaccines subsequently challenged with the wild-type virus and what was the outcome of those studies?

If answers to these questions are not provided, it is our recommendation that individuals should think twice about providing consent. JP2MRI wants to assure the public that it will conduct rigorous safety and efficacy studies and follow all FDA guidelines before any vaccine candidate is ever tested in humans.

The use of aborted fetal cell lines in COVID-19 vaccines has raised major concerns within the Catholic Church, as well as the pro-life community. On April 17, 2020, the Most Reverend Joseph Naumann, Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas and Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities, along with eight other pro-life groups, submitted a letter to the Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Stephen Hahn, voicing their support for the creation of an ethically based vaccine that does not rely on the use of aborted fetal cell lines. John Paul II Medical Research Institute was specifically mentioned in the letter from the USCCB as one of the organizations working towards the development of an ethically based vaccine. We would urge our supporters to ask their respective diocesan church leaders to share this important message through their church newsletters so that everyone can become educated on this topic and how it impacts them.

Morally illicit cells have been around for over half a century, but until now, little effort has been made to develop ethically derived human cell lines as a better and moral alternative. JP2MRI has learned over the years that many pro-life individuals have, often unwittingly, financially supported secular medical research organizations that utilize or support aborted fetal tissue or embryonic stem cell research. Consequently, education and due diligence play an important role in making an informed decision.

JP2MRI's financial goal for the 2020 "Campaign for Cures" is to raise at least \$325,000 this year to help defray the costs related to this vital research. The Institute will need to file provisional US and foreign patents as a requirement before we can publish or distribute the ethical cell lines to biopharmaceutical companies. We will also need to purchase necessary equipment, research supplies and support personnel involved with this project. While we have applied for state and federal assistance through various grants and funding programs, your participation and financial support will be critical to help us meet our goal. I am asking each of you to please make a donation, however large or small, and help us promote this campaign through your network of family, friends and social or religious groups. JP2MRI is committed to advancing ethical medical research and our team is working hard to find new therapies and cures. We take pride in applying the majority of every dollar we receive towards medical research. Please join the fight to support ethical research by donating today. To learn more, please visit www.jp2mri.org and follow our regular updates on Facebook. Thank you.

Kind regards and God Bless,



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