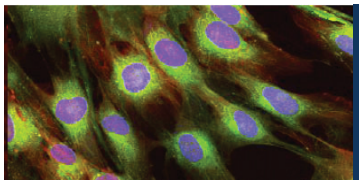
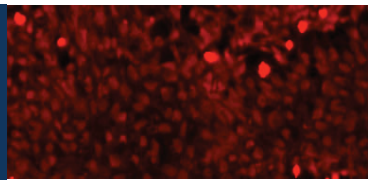


JOHN PAUL II MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE



December 2022 Newsletter

2022 "Campaign for Cures" Research Update and Request for Support

Dear Friend:

I would like to provide you with a year-end update on John Paul II Medical Research Institute's (JP2MRI's) 2022 "Campaign for Cures." Our objective this year is to raise $1 million to help us advance ethical medical research in our core priority areas of neurodegenerative diseases, rare diseases, cancer and chronic diseases that are underserved and would benefit from stem cell therapy. As of the end of November, 2022, the Institute has raised roughly $457,000 towards our intended goal. We recognize that this year has been a financial hardship for our donors and we appreciate whatever financial support you can provide at the end of year. More importantly, you are our best advocates to expand our donor base by educating your family members and friends about the unique mission and accomplishments of JP2MRI. Please know that your donation is tax deductible and that every single dollar will help us get that much closer to this year's campaign goal.

Covid Vaccine Development Update

JP2MRI has created a DNA technology platform to produce novel coronavirus strains that may offer a traditional attenuated live vaccine against novel coronaviruses. Such a vaccine would be more robust and durable and decrease viral transmission, features that are lacking in the current mRNA vaccines. The Institute has also produced immortalized human post-natal stem cells that could be used to manufacture live viral particles necessary for vaccine production. Recently, the University of Iowa tested whether the delta variant of Covid could infect and produce live viral particles in our immortalized post-natal human stem cell lines. While the Delta strain produced thousands of viral particles in an established animal cell model, the Delta strain to our surprise failed to produce any significant viral particles in these neonatal immortalized stem cells. This observation suggests that there is/are some factor(s) that prevent COVID from infecting neonatal cells, which may explain, in part, why children are not as susceptible to COVID and may not be ideal recipients for an experimental gene therapy. This unexpected observation offers new challenges, but also offers new potential opportunities. There may be a specific drug target in neonatal cells that prevents COVID infection which, if identified, could offer a therapeutic to treat novel coronavirus infections in adults. We are now contemplating three alternative strategies to create attenuated vaccines that enhance respiratory mucosal immunity, which is a prerequisite to reduce viral transmission. One alternative strategy is to develop an attenuated live vaccine with a conventional animal cell. There are pros/cons with that strategy. The second strategy, which involves a collaboration with a Texas non-profit organization, is to develop an attenuated non-replicating vaccine using our immortalized neonatal stem cells. The last strategy is to perform a comparative genetic analysis between animal cells and the neonatal stem cells to identify the factor(s) that protects against infection, and subsequently genetically silence that factor to render the cells capable of producing a fully human live attenuated vaccine. It is important to recognize that unexpected outcomes are a part of medical research and course corrections are required- this is why it's called research. Moreover, our results confirm why it has been so difficult for researchers around the world to produce a robust and durable vaccine for novel coronaviruses over the past twenty plus years. However, we feel that this medical research remains important not only for developing vaccines for novel coronaviruses, but applying that research to improve vaccines for influenza and other unmet viral diseases.

Stem Cell Research Update

Our stem cell research is making significant progress. To the best of our knowledge, the Institute is the only organization that has an active human somatic (adult) stem cell and induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) program, thereby offering a cell protection/repair and cell replacement therapy, respectively. Our iPSC has significant safety advantages over embryonic stem cells - for details we direct you to a Rumble video entitled, "The Future Crisis to Catholics From Secular Biotech-Solving the Embryonic Stem Cell Dilemma." Our research focuses on the following milestones: (1) optimizing large scale cell production of iPSC and neural stem cells; (2) genetic modifications of those stem cells to increase their reproducibility and potency; (3) reducing the production cost; and (4) genetically modifying these stem cells so that they do not require the need for anti-rejection medications which pose serious adverse side effects. These therapies have broad application, and we have a pipeline of therapeutics for treating many unmet neurological diseases such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, ALS, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury and cerebellar degeneration caused by both common and rare diseases. For further information, we direct our donors to a Rumble video called, "How does JP2MRI compare with secular medical research organizations?"

Recombinant Human Proteins and Replacing the HEK293 Cell Line

HEK293 cells are aborted fetal cells that are ubiquitous in research and used in biomanufacturing. The HEK293 cell line poses the greatest threat to Catholics and Catholic healthcare because it generates over 100 billion dollars a year in biopharmaceutical products. In five years, that market is expected to double. The largest share of that market is derived from biologics (peptides/proteins). The Institute is the only

organization that has developed an ethical alternative to HEK293 through our immortalized human stem cells, and we have now successfully used these cells to produce a variety of biologics. For details, we direct our donors to a Rumble video entitled, "JP2MRI Creates Immortalized Human Stem Cells to Replace HEK293."

Education and Advocacy Update

A common question we are often asked is how can a non-profit the size of JP2MRI, with a modest operating budget, accomplish research milestones which have been promised for years by larger medical research organizations that have failed to deliver for their patients. The problem stems from the general public not knowing how to evaluate reasonable metrics in productivity among non-government organizations (NGOs) that purportedly support medical research. We have uploaded a Rumble video entitled, "How does JP2MRI compare with secular medical research organizations?" which provides a comprehensive analysis on how to evaluate the research productivity of NGOs. After viewing this video, you will see that JP2MRI exceeds expectations in productivity, while many well-funded NGOs underperform and do not provide sufficient value when it comes to drug development. Even more concerning is the fact that far too many pro-life individuals are still unaware that they are supporting a culture of death by financing these secular medical research organizations, which raise billions of dollars annually. To fully understand the scale and impact of morally illicit cells to Catholics, we have created a Rumble video entitled, "The Future Crisis to Catholics from Secular Biotechnology - What is the Scale of the Problem?" In this video, we highlight the problem and the barriers for change. It is our hope that after watching the videos highlighted above, you will be armed with the knowledge necessary to educate not only other pro-life people in your network, but also non-religious but open-minded individuals about this issue to support JP2MRI's mission. All of our videos are available with Spanish subtitles for the Spanish-speaking community.

Request for Support

JP2MRI continues to be the leader in advancing ethical, pro-life based research. Your support is more crucial than ever to help us continue this effort. To learn more and follow our progress, please visit our website (jp2mri.org) and follow us on Facebook, Rumble.com and Gab.com. Thank you very much for your support.

Kind regards and God Bless,

Jay M. Kamath, J.D. / CEO
John Paul II Medical Research Institute

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- ☐ I am a first-time donor: __ Yes __ No
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