

**PP Citizens for Life works to protect the innocent, helpless, vulnerable members of our human family – young and old, infirm and healthy, born and preborn.**

## Unbearable Suffering and Euthanasia

The Second International Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide took place in Lansdowne, VA, during the last weekend of May .

Alison Davis, who is disabled and leader of the disability rights group, No Less Human, was the opening speaker.

Davis has lived with spina bifida, hydrocephalus, emphysema, and multiple other disabilities that confine her permanently to a wheelchair and cause her immense suffering.

Frequent doses of morphine only somewhat alleviate her pain. “When the pain’s at its worst, I can’t move, I can’t think, I can’t speak,” said Davis.

About twenty years ago, doctors told her she didn’t have long to live. Having a “settled wish” to die that lasted for ten years, she attempted suicide several times.

She regained her desire to live after a 1995 trip to India where she met children with disabilities, whom she has sponsored and whom she began to love “overwhelmingly and fiercely.”

She later established **Enable** (Working in India), a charity for Indian children with disabilities.

“Had euthanasia or assisted suicide been legal then, and I’d been killed, I would have missed what actually have been the best years of my life and nobody ever would have known.”

“In my experience, when the pain is bad, what I need is **not to be told I’m burdensome and it’s my choice whether I want to live or die, and that perhaps I would be better off dead.**”

“What I need is to be surrounded by people who tell me, yes, my life does have value, and I’m not burdensome....”

“They can’t take the pain away, but sometimes it’s not the pain that hurts the most, it’s the fear of being abandoned.”

Colin Harte is the full-time caretaker of Alison Davis. He also is the director of the U.K. anti-euthanasia group, **ALERT**.

Harte criticized the deep fear of both experiencing and witnessing suffering that he says is behind the euthanasia movement.

“In many people’s minds, the whole of the debate about euthanasia is fixated on the question of suffering,” said Harte.

“Contrary to the typical assumption,” said Harte, “death is not the only means of overcoming unstoppable pain.

“While Davis’ physical pain did not improve after her visit to India, and – in many ways – has become much worse, the children provided a particularly powerful motivation for her to persevere.

“And that motivation has another name, a simple name: love.”

Harte quoted Victor Frankl, Holocaust survivor and psychoanalyst: “I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart. The salvation of man is through love and in love.”

He added: “That profound insight resulted from Frankl’s own intense suffering...”

“Love really can and does make suffering bearable.”

## PP and Medicaid

A Washington State audit shows Spokane Planned Parenthood (PP) was routinely over billing Medicaid in five categories between 2004 and 2007.

One was "unbundling" post-abortion drugs and billing them as family planning, which is prohibited.

Other cases were pregnancy tests done on women who never said they thought they were pregnant and without an indication the tests were medically necessary.

Included were overfilling on fraudulent birth control prescriptions or for drugs sold without a prescription, billing for more than three times the cost of condoms and...

...billing office visits for picking up a prescription or getting an injection.

PP Spokane has been ordered to reimburse the State \$630,000 plus interest for a total of \$700,000, to cover the Medicaid overpayments.

The audit report didn't claim to have been exhaustive, meaning more investigations may be made hereafter.

[No wonder Medicaid is in such a financial mess. Such fraud may be occurring across the nation. Ed.]

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*"[Doctors], on the whole, desire to cure the sick; and – if they are good doctors, and the choice was fairly put to them – would rather cure their patient and lose their fee, than kill him and get it."*

## FAIR SEASON ENDS

Labor Day closed the Colorado State Fair and the last of summer booths for PPCFL.

Cooperating with Pueblo's Pro-Life of Southern Colorado, we were able to stock and staff our first-time booth as PPCL at the State Fair.

The soft-touch 12-week babies were a tremendous hit...

*A lady with two little girls stopped by the booth and took a baby for each girl. They were at the booth a long time as she explained things to them.*

*In a little while, one of the girls came running back to tell the booth workers:*

*"Now that I have this little baby, I am going to pray every night that no one will want to get rid of their little baby."*

We cannot adequately express our appreciation for all of the volunteers who gave their time, energy and travel to staff that booth.

...as well as those good people who were willing to have their names on a "substitute" list.

## Radio Ads Have Impact

In August, we reported that PPCFL had placed one of Virtue Media's ads on KILO, 94.3 and "The Beat", 96.1

Virtue Media reported the local responses received for the July 15 – August 31 campaigns.

It was very exciting to learn that **81 calls and 17 website contacts** were made to Virtue Media's OptionLine from abortion-vulnerable women who had heard the commercial.

## PPCFL Officers & Advisors

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## Late Term Abortions

Dr. Mary L. Davenport, the new president-elect of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, is a former abortionist.

In response to the claim made by the Center for Reproductive Rights that the closing of Tiller's clinic left an immense void in the availability of abortion, Davenport writes:

"Although serious threats to health can occur, there is always a life-affirming way to care for mother and baby, no matter how bleak the prognosis.

"The elimination of the late-term abortion would not create a void in medical care, but instead result...

"...in a more humane world in which vulnerable humans would be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve."

Excerpts: "Late-Term Abortions...", T M Baklinski, LifeSiteNews, 6/22/09

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The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

Num 6:24

## Drug Trials using Embryonic Stem Cells

GE Healthcare, a subsidiary of General Electric, will use embryonic stem cells for testing toxic effects of drug treatments, potentially phasing out the use of rats.

The cells will be provided by Geron Corporation, a biotech firm engaged in human cloning.

Aware of the controversy surrounding embryonic stem cell research, GE stated that they “take very seriously the ethical and societal issues associated with” ESCR.

They seemed proud of the potential “benefit” that the use of embryonic stem cells may make experiments on rats unnecessary.

Geron Corporation indicates that, in this case, it believes that the end justifies the means. **[Oh, really??!! – ed]**

Both companies plan to use ES cells from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) registry, **making their work eligible for taxpayer funding.**

In January, the FDA gave Geron Corporation permission to conduct the first-ever human trial for a treatment derived from ESC.

Law professor, Cass Sunstein, is the President’s appointee as “regulatory” czar.

In 2007, Sunstein speculated that one day “our willingness to subject animals to unjustified suffering will be seen as a form of unconscionable barbarity...morally akin to slavery...”

Sunstein is strongly supported in this attitude by Princeton’s Peter Singer, along with Nazis H. Himmler, who denounced hunting as “pure murder” of “the innocent.”...

...and Hermann Goering, who threatened to send those who “continue to treat animals as inanimate property” to “concentration camps.”

Blurring the moral distinction between animals and people contributed to some of the greatest human-rights violations the world has ever seen, culminating in the slaughter of six million Jews, whom the Nazis treated worse than animals.

Could we not expect the same result in our once God-fearing nation if we accept the idea that animals deserve the same protections as humans?

## Conscience Rights Abused

Catherina Genzon-DeCarlo, a native of the Philippines, moved to New York in 2001. She began working at Mt. Sinai Hospital as an operating room nurse in 2004.

She was asked during her interview whether or not she was willing to assist with abortions. She said “no” and put her refusal into writing.

On May 24 Nurse Genzon-DeCarlo found that her list of assignments included an abortion.

When she asked for a replacement, she was told that “the mother could die because of pre-eclampsia marked by high blood pressure that could lead to seizures or death if left untreated.”

Instead of getting a replacement, she was threatened with charges of insubordination and patient abandonment – both career-ending charges – forcing her to assist, regardless of her beliefs.

Later she learned that the hospital records marked the abortion as “Category II” – something not immediately life-threatening.

The nurse filed a grievance with her union the day after the incidence. Later that week, two supervisors told her if she wanted any more overtime shifts, she would have to sign a statement agreeing to participate in abortions.

A New York Post article with the sub-title of “Faith Objector Sues Mt. Sinai” reports portions of the suit, as well as statements made by Genzon-DeCarlo, a 35-year-old wife and mother of a year-old baby.

The Christian legal group, the Alliance Defense Fund, is providing legal advice.

Still working at the hospital in July, Genzon-DeCarlo is asking a court to order the hospital to pay damages, restore her shifts and respect her objections to abortion.

**“I emigrated to this country in the belief that here religious freedom is sacred,” said Genzon-DeCarlo.**

**“I felt violated and betrayed. Doctors and nurses shouldn’t be forced to abandon their beliefs and participate in abortion in order to keep their jobs.”**

## October - Disability Awareness Month

### Terri Schiavo and Torture

Terri Schindler Schiavo mysteriously collapsed on February 25, 1990. She was 26 years old. Only her husband, Michael, was with her at the time.

In spite of unanswered questions and his living with another woman after the episode, Michael was authorized to make healthcare decisions for Terri. Severely disabled, Terri was not dying.

In response to a lawsuit by Michael, Judge George Greer sentenced Terri to death by starvation and dehydration even though she was **not** dependent upon feeding tubes for nutrition or water.

Her “execution” took over 13 days to complete – a horrendous death that only fools would call peaceful or painless. She died March 31, 2005.

“Waterboarding” of terrorists was the supposed horror of last spring. Called “torture”; “wrong”; “outrageous,” it only simulated death.

Where were those voices while Terri actually starved and dehydrated to death as the world watched?

Those who truly appreciate the sanctity of human life understand that we are here to care for each other, not to kill each other.

Caring – not convenience – is the sign of a civilized and just society.

Excerpts: Ron Panzer, Hospice Patients Alliance; Carrie K. Hutchens, “Mercy for the Terrorist: Death to Terri Schiavo”, The Dakota Voice, 18 May 09