

HONORING TONY RUSSELL

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor a dedicated public servant, Mr. Russell Anthony Tuccelli. After a lifetime of hard work and commitment to his family, community, and state, my friend, who was better known as Tony Russell, passed away on April 20, 2002. Having completed an eight-year battle with cancer, he was buried at sea on May 8th. He was 75 years old.

Tony had a long and distinguished career working in the news media and on behalf of state and local governments. During the 1970s he was the news director for both KCRA Radio and KFBK Radio in Sacramento, California. He also was a foreign correspondent for United Press International and a talk show host for KFBK.

In 1980, Tony assumed the role of director of communications for the Senate Minority Caucus in the California State Legislature. Later, he became my district coordinator when I represented the 3rd State Senatorial District. I deeply appreciate the valuable service he provided me. In 1984, he left my office to become an administrative assistant to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. In 1987 he moved over to a similar position for the Sacramento City Council before joining the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning as the chief of communications.

The year 1991 marked the beginning of his decade of service to California's Employment Development Department. Within this agency he worked as a public information officer, marketing specialist, and an associate information systems analyst.

He was known as a leader in the community through his involvement as a youth mentor in EDD's School Partnership Program. Also, he was often the guest speaker at swearing-in ceremonies for our newest U.S. citizens, giving everyone in attendance a brief history lesson and instilling a rousing sense of patriotism.

Tony is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Lenamare Tuccelli. He is also survived by his son Michael and daughter-in-law Erin, his son Stephen and daughter-in-law Karen, and his grandchildren Angela, Raymond, Stephanie, and Ryan. Tony Russell will be greatly missed by his family and friends, but his legacy of devotion to family and service to the community remains with us forever.

RECENT STEM CELL
BREAKTHROUGHS

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, recently a scientific study was published that should have ended the ongoing debate regarding human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. Researchers reported that they have identified a cell from bone marrow that is capable of transforming itself into most, or even all, of the specialized cells in the body.

This finding suggests that every one of us may carry our own "repair kit" that can be used to treat countless medical conditions and genetic disorders.

The New York Times reports that these "cells could in principle do everything expected of embryonic stem cells, with two extra advantages." They do not form tumors, which are a serious hazard associated with embryonic stem cells, and they could be derived from the patient to be treated. "Being the patient's own cells, they would be at no risk of immune rejection."

And the Washington Post notes that this discovery "heightens the prospect that therapies scientists are trying to create—cures for diabetes, Parkinson's disease, hemophilia and many others—can be made entirely with adult cells alleviating moral concerns" that exist with the research involving embryos and clones.

Yet, proponents of these unethical and unproven practices have largely ignored these adult stem cell breakthroughs. But the facts are simple.

Research using embryos and clones requires the creation and destruction of a form of human life. Adult stem cell research does not. In fact, adult stem cells are widely available in every one of us.

Research using embryos and clones has yet to produce any clinical applications for human patients. Adult stem cell therapies are currently used to treat a host of medical conditions with new breakthroughs announced on an almost weekly basis.

Without a doubt, embryonic stem cell research and cloning are highly speculative and problematic. Both require the destruction of human embryos and the diversion of finite, and much needed, funds and resources away from more promising research avenues, such as adult stem cells.

[From the Washington Post, Fri. June 21, 2002]

STUDY FINDS POTENTIAL IN ADULT CELLS;
DISCOVERY WILL LIKELY FUEL ETHICAL DEBATE

(By Justin Gillis)

Researchers have isolated a type of cell from bone marrow that seems capable of transforming itself into most or all of the specialized cells in the body, a dramatic new finding likely to fuel the debate over the ethics of stemcell research.

The finding was reported by researchers at the University of Minnesota and published online yesterday by the journal *Nature*. It heightens the prospect that therapies scientists are trying to create—cures for diabetes, Parkinson's disease, hemophilia and many others—can be made entirely with adult cells, alleviating moral concerns over using discarded embryos and fetuses as sources of tissue.

There has been conflicting evidence about whether cells found in adults might be as useful as those derived from embryos. But the work by Catherine Verfaillie, known as a fastidious and cautious researcher, was widely acknowledged as the most definitive evidence to date that adult cells may be almost as versatile as embryonic cells. Austin Smith, a prominent researcher in Scotland who has criticized some prior studies using such cells, called the Verfaillie paper "extraordinary."

The work is still at an early stage, however, and Verfaillie asked that it not be used as a political weapon to fight simultaneous work on embryonic and fetal cells.

"I think it is going to be important to be in a position to really compare and contrast

the cells," she said, with the ultimate goal of determining "which cells are going to work for which therapy."

As if to underscore that point, *Nature* simultaneously published work at the National Institutes of Health showing that embryo-derived cells can vastly improve symptoms similar to those associated with Parkinson's disease in mice. That work, led by Ron McKay, is one of the most convincing demonstrations to date that such embryonic cells may be useful in medical care.

The cells in McKay's experiments, derived from mouse embryos, took up residence at the right spot in the brains of adult mice and produced dopamine—a critical substance that is in short supply in Parkinson's disease—in exactly the way that would be needed to relieve the symptoms of the ailment. It is far from proof of a cure, but "it's absolutely definitive evidence that these cells can work in the brain," McKay said.

The more unexpected finding was that of Verfaillie, director of the University of Minnesota's Stem Cell Institute. With the paper, she joined the company of biologists who are overturning the dogma that animal development proceeds in one irreversible direction, from the unspecialized cell formed when sperm and egg fuse to the highly specialized cells of an adult body.

Hints of her work had been emerging for two years in papers and scientific conferences, and scientists had been eagerly awaiting it. Many other reports, some of them controversial, already emerged in recent years of various adult cell types being able to perform unexpected feats of transformation. But Verfaillie has discovered what appears to be the most flexible adult-derived cell yet.

She calls the cells in question "multipotent adult progenitor cells." She and her colleagues have isolated them from mice, rats and people, though they are only able to do so in 70 percent to 80 percent of the people they test, for unknown reasons.

In animal experiments, the cells proved to lack certain characteristics of embryonic stem cells, which are capable of making every tissue in an animal's body. But they shared many other characteristics and proved to be able to transform into cells of the liver, lung, gut, blood, brain and other organs. They have proven particularly amenable to transformation into liver cells.

Many of the types of experiments Verfaillie reported, which involved injecting the adult cells into developing mouse embryos, cannot ethically be done in humans. But further animal experimentation may clear the way to use the cells in treating human disease. Several scientists cautioned that this will take years, at best.

Verfaillie's results suggest the tantalizing possibility that every adult may carry around the raw material of his or her own repair kit—one that nature is somehow failing to use in many diseases but that scientists might be able to exploit to make new tissues and revivify failing organs.

Cells derived from a person's bone marrow would be unlikely to be rejected by the immune system, a potential problem with treatments based on embryonic- or fetal-derived cells.

Verfaillie said the cells might even be useful for correcting genetic diseases. They could be taken out of the body, a repaired gene could be inserted, doctors could grow many copies and then the cells would be inserted into a deficient organ such as the liver, along with proper manipulations to get them to turn into functional liver cells.

The Verfaillie work "is a nice research paper," said John Gearhart, a biologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and one of the two American scientists known

for isolating human embryonic and fetal stem cells. "I think it's good, solid work. We'll see where it goes."

Verfaillie's work was particularly welcomed yesterday by opponents of embryonic stem cell research. They have long contended that adult-derived cells offer just as much promise and don't pose the same moral concerns as embryonic cells.

The Senate is embroiled in arguments over a related issue. Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) wants a federal ban on the transfer of nuclei from adult cells into hollowed-out human eggs.

The intent of the scientists who want to perform that procedure, a type of cloning, would be to derive healthy replacement cells that are a perfect genetic match for a human patient. But because the procedure would create a microscopic embryo that would be capable, briefly, of turning into a human clone if implanted into a woman's uterus, some groups oppose it, saying destruction of the microscopic embryo would be tantamount to murder.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD E. HANUS DETROIT-WAYNE JOINT BUILDING AUTHORITY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bernard Hanus, who was honored at the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority's Pre-Retirement Luncheon on July 10, 2002. As distinguished guests, colleagues, and community members gathered together to bid farewell to a longtime friend and advocate of public service, they honored his coming retirement with a celebration of tributes, memories, and good cheer.

Demonstrating outstanding leadership and commitment throughout the years, Bernard Hanus has always been dedicated to his work and his community. As Chairman of the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority from 1974–2001, he has served over 28 remarkable years and has been an integral part of the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority's success. Managing a key role in the development and execution of the Detroit-Wayne Joint Authority's agenda, his hard work and innovative approach for Detroit and Wayne County has been truly outstanding. As he prepares for his retirement, his leadership and legacy will surely be missed.

Bernard Hanus also understands the importance of dedication and commitment to the principles of community, family and public service. Serving Wayne County for over 22 years, he has devoted his time and energy to principles he believes in. As the Director of Administration and Committee Clerk, his hard work has been demonstrated by his remarkable achievements for the city of Detroit and beyond. In addition, he has served his community well as former President of Our Lady Queen of Peace Roman Catholic School Board, former Commander of AMVETS Post No. 33, and life member of the Lt. Robert H. Stoll AMVETS Post No. 33. Bernard Hanus has always been a leader, and as he retires from the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority, he will assuredly continue to lead the way in this community for many years to come.

I applaud Bernard Hanus for his leadership and commitment, and thank him for his out-

standing years with the Detroit-Wayne Joint Building Authority. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his exemplary years of service.

SIKHS OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to note a historic occasion that is being observed this week. In addition to our observance of D-Day, the day that Allied troops landed in Europe to begin the attack on Nazi Germany, this week marks the anniversary of India's military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar and the brutal massacre of 20,000 Sikhs in June 1984. Recently, Sikhs from the East Coast gathered to commemorate this event in front of the Indian Embassy here in Washington. Similar events have been held or will be held in New York, London, and many other cities.

The Golden Temple attack was an attack on the seat of the Sikh religion. It forever put the lie to India's claim that it is secular and democratic. How can a democratic state launch a military attack on religious pilgrims gathered at the most sacred site of their religion? The Indian troops shot bullet holes through the Sikh holy scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib, and took boys as young as eight years old out in the courtyard and shot them in cold blood. This set off a wave of repression against Sikhs that continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the flyer from that event into the RECORD now. It contains a lot of important information about the Golden Temple attack that shows the tyranny just under the facade of Indian democracy.

KHALISTAN MARTYRS DAY, JUNE 1, 2002

PROTESTING INDIAN GOVERNMENT DESECRATION OF THE GOLDEN TEMPLE AND MASSACRE OF SIKHS

Sikhs Demand Freedom for Sikh Nation of Khalistan. Remember the Victims of Indian Genocide. "If the Indian government attacks the Golden Temple, it will lay the foundation of Khalistan."—Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, Sikh martyr

Indian government genocide against the Sikh nation continues to this day. From June 3 to 6, 1984 the Indian Government launched a military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest of Sikh shrines and seat of the Sikh religion. This is the equivalent of attacking the Vatican or Mecca. 38 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, Khalistan were simultaneously attacked. More than 20,000 Sikhs were killed in these attacks.

Desecration of the temple included shooting bullets into the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture, and destroying original Hukam Namas written by hand by the ten Sikh Gurus. Young Sikh boys ages 8 to 12 were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh homeland. When they responded "Bole So Nihal," a religious statement, they were shot to death in cold blood by the brutal Indian troops.

The Golden Temple attack launched an ongoing campaign of genocide against Sikhs by the Indian government that continues to this day. Punjab, Khalistan, the Sikh home-

land, has been turned into a killing field. The Golden Temple attack made it clear that there is no place for Sikhs in India. "The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination."—Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Me.)

The Movement Against State Repression issued a report showing that India is holding at least 52,268 Sikh political prisoners, by their own admission, in illegal detention without charge or trial. Some of them have been held since 1984. Many prisoners continue to be held under the repressive, so-called "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. According to the report, in many cases, the police would file TADA cases against the same individual in different states "to make it impossible for them to muster evidence in their favor." It was also common practice for police to re-arrest TADA prisoners who had been released, often without filing new charges.

"In November 1994," the report states, "42 employees of the Pilibhit district jail and PAC were found guilty of clubbing to death 6 Sikh prisoners and seriously wounding 22 others. They were TADA prisoners. Uttar Pradesh later admitted the presence of around 5000 Sikh TADA prisoners." Over 50,000 Sikhs have been made to disappear since 1984.

Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan formally declared independence on October 7, 1987, to be achieved through the Sikh tradition of Shantmai Morcha, or peaceful resistance. Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1765 to 1849 and were to receive sovereignty at the time that the British quit India.

"When it comes to Kashmir and Punjab and Jammu, the Indian Government might as well not be a democracy. For people in those areas, India might as well be Nazi Germany."—U.S. Representative Dana Rohrabacher (R-Cal)

Only a terrorist state could commit atrocities of such magnitude.

While India seeks hegemony in South Asia, the atrocities continue. India has openly tested nuclear weapons and deployed them in Punjab, weapons that can be used in case of nuclear war with Pakistan. These warheads put the lives of Sikhs at risk for Hindu Nationalist hegemony over South Asia. The Indian government is run by the BJP, the militant Hindu nationalist party in India, and is unfriendly to the United States. In May 1999, the Indian Express reported that Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes led a meeting with representatives from Cuba, Russia, China, Libya, Iraq, and other countries to build a security alliance "to stop the U.S."

In March 42 Members of the U.S. Congress from both parties wrote to President Bush asking him to help free tens of thousands of political prisoners.

India voted with Cuba, China, and other repressive states to kill a U.S. resolution against human-rights violations in China.

India is a terrorist state. According to published reports in India, the government planned the massacre in Gujarat (which killed over 5,000 people) in advance and they ordered the police to stand by and not to interfere to stop the massacre. Last year, a group of Indian soldiers was caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes in a village in Kashmir.

According to the Hitavada newspaper, India paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

Continuing Repression Against Sikhs

"The Indian government, all the time they boast that they're democratic, they're secular, but they have nothing to do with a democracy, they have nothing to do with a secularism. They try to crush Sikhs just to