

# LifeLines

## The 2013 Adult Stem Cell Conference Recap

### Contents

#### Partnership Extension

Partnership with the Vatican to 2020 1

#### Adult Stem Cells

*News and Highlights* 2

#### Conference Summary

Fostering Open Dialogue 3

#### The Healing Cell

SFLF's Book Spreading Awareness 5

#### Award Presentation

Dr. Robin Smith Honored by Vatican 6

#### Vatican Conference Honorees

Pontifical Key and Hero Awards 6

#### T Cells Treating Multiple Sclerosis

Q&A with Neil Warma 8

#### Media Report

Vatican Conference in the News 9

#### Student Ambassadors

Program Launches at Conference 10

#### A Night to Remember

The Mesoblast Gala Dinner 11

## Partnership Extension

### Extension of SFLF Partnership with Vatican to 2020

One significant outcome of the 2013 Conference was the announcement of the extension of the collaboration between the Stem for Life Foundation (SFLF) and the Vatican through May 2020. SFLF welcomes this opportunity to further develop this fruitful relationship, which has the potential to help millions around the world, both Catholics and non-Catholics, better understand adult stem cells and the growing impact they are having on patients.

On May 26, 2010, Msgr. Tomasz Trafny, Head of the Science and Faith Department of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Culture and Executive Director of STOQ International, and Dr. Robin Smith, CEO of NeoStem and President of SFLF, announced what they characterized as the Vatican's first-ever contractual collaboration with an outside commercial venture to

advance adult stem cell research. This initiative partnered the charitable organizations of NeoStem and the Vatican to expand research and raise awareness of adult stem cell therapies.

Continued on page 11



Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi and Dr. Robin Smith

## Welcome



Dr. Robin L. Smith

In the wake of the April 2013 Second International Vatican Adult Stem Cell Conference, we at the Stem for Life Foundation are happy to deliver a special "Conference Recap" edition of our *Life Lines* newsletter! In this issue, we highlight the conference's great success in accomplishing its mission to discuss and understand the importance of scientific advancements in the paradigm shift toward the use of adult stem cell therapies.

We are also proud to report the extension of our partnership with the Vatican to help the world better understand adult stem cells and the growing impact they are having on patients (Page 1). I, along with many supporters and pioneers in the movement towards regenerative medicine, was honored during the conference with Pontifical Key awards (Page 6). There has been a great deal of activity to promote *The Healing Cell: How the Greatest Revolution in Medical History is Changing Your Life* by its authors, Msgr. Tomasz Trafny, Dr. Max Gomez, and me. The book is now available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and Barnes & Noble (Page 6).

Also in this issue, conference speaker Neil Warma, President of Opexa Therapeutics, Inc., a biotechnology company that develops patient-specific cellular therapies for the treatment of autoimmune diseases, answers questions about the potential of T cells to treat chronic diseases, such as secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (Page 8).

In the weeks since this impactful conference, we have witnessed significant attention by media outlets, all helping to spread the message of the conference (Page 10). In these pages, we provide an update on our Student Ambassadors for the Cellular Age Program, which officially launched in April 2013 (Page 10). SFLF is thrilled to be successfully reaching the next generation of cell therapy researchers and supporters. ■

  
Dr. Robin L. Smith  
President and Trustee

## Adult Stem Cell News Highlights

Since our last newsletter, adult stem cell news has continued to gain significant attention globally. Here are some of the headlines we've seen covering medical advances using adult stem cells. Follow our adult stem cell news on Twitter @stemforlife.

### Scientists Unite to Solve Mystery of Mental Illness and Neurological Conditions

- A team from Cardiff University secured a £5.2 million award to combine the latest findings in genetics, brain imaging, animal models, and stem cells.

### Oregon Research Team Successfully Converts Human Skin Cells Into Embryonic Stem Cells

- This breakthrough marks the first time human stem cells have been produced via somatic cell nuclear transfer and follows several unsuccessful attempts by research groups worldwide.

### Kansas University Adult Stem Cell Research Center Funded by State

- \$2 million was earmarked to develop the center.

### Gina Lollabrigida Gems Raise \$3.2 Million for Stem Cell Research

- The iconic Italian actress sold 22 pieces to help raise awareness about adult stem cell therapy.

### Two-Year-Old Receives Trachea Transplant From Her Stem Cells

- In April, Hannah Warren, born without a trachea due to a rare condition, successfully received a stem cell-built trachea transplant.

### Mesoblast Raises \$162 Million

- In March, the regenerative medicine company Mesoblast Limited completed a private placement raising \$170 million AUD (approximately \$162 million USD). The company will use the funds for continued development of Mesoblast's proprietary mesenchymal precursor cell technology platform.

### Stem Cell Model of Neurodegenerative Disease Elucidates Potential New Treatments

- Researchers say they have used induced pluripotent stem cells to advance disease-in-a-dish modeling of a rare genetic disorder, ataxia telangiectasia. The UCLA scientists say their discovery shows the positive effects of drugs that may lead to effective new treatments for the neurodegenerative disease.

Continued on page 3

News Highlights continued from page 2

### Studying Neural Stem Cells

- Scientists from the Department of Molecular Biology, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, wrote about the processes involved in adult neurological growth, whereby stem cells in the brain differentiate into neurons in response to external neural activity. It is possible, however, that "exciting" these cells in this manner can permanently deplete the stem cell reservoir for brain cells.

## Conference Summary

Leaders of faith, science, and government from around the world gathered in Vatican City from April 11 to 13, 2013, for *The Second International Vatican Adult Stem Cell Conference: Regenerative Medicine – A Fundamental Shift in Science & Culture*. The event, hosted by NeoStem, Inc., and the Pontifical Council for Culture along with their affiliated foundations, SFLF and STOQ International, was the next step in an historic ongoing partnership between the organizations to foster an open dialogue amongst researchers, physicians, faith leaders and policy-makers and identify how cellular therapies can treat chronic disease throughout the world and reduce human suffering.

Coming off the success of the first Vatican Adult Stem Cell Conference in 2011, this event received attention from renowned journalists who served as moderators, including Meredith Vieira from NBC, Bill Hemmer from The Fox News Channel, Peggy Noonan of The Wall Street Journal, and Dr. Max Gomez from WCBS-TV.

Leaders in the joint initiative organized the event, including His Eminence Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture; Dr. Robin Smith, Chairman and CEO of NeoStem and Chairman and President of SFLF; and Msgr. Tomasz Trafny, Head of the Pontifical Council for Culture's Science and Faith Department.

Dr. John Gurdon, 2012 Nobel Prize Laureate for Physiology or Medicine, was the keynote speaker for the event and discussed his work in developing **induced pluripotent stem cell technology**. Former U.S. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband, Captain Mark Kelly, spoke out



Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi



Dr. Robin Smith



Msgr. Tomasz Trafny

### Stem Cell Research for New MS Treatment

- Modified adult stem cells may hold the key to a new treatment for multiple sclerosis, according to University of Adelaide researchers, speaking during 'Kiss Goodbye to MS' month. The researchers have started a three-year research project using adult stem cells from fat tissue to send cells with special anti-inflammatory properties directly to the damaged site in the central nervous system. ■

in support of the initiative to look for ways to treat injuries, such as her traumatic brain injury, using adult stem cells.

The conference highlighted many diseases where adult stem cell therapies are showing promising results as well as areas where their development is just beginning. Dr. Max Gomez led a discussion of current uses and biological principles in stem cell transplants for treatment of **leukemias, other cancers, and non-malignancies**.

Some of the world's leading researchers for **multiple sclerosis** using cell therapy spoke about their therapies in development.

A panel highlighted the exciting progress being made with adult stem cell therapies to treat **cardio-vascular disease**. Leading physicians from Europe and America along with representatives from global biotech companies discussed on-going clinical trials and debated



Dr. John Gurdon



Gabrielle Giffords and Mark Kelly

Continued on page 4

the pros and cons of autologous versus allogeneic approaches.

Bill Hemmer moderated a panel examining the latest developments in **organ and tissue regeneration**, including stem cell-supported **tracheal transplantation**, the use of stem cells in **knee osteoarthritis**, and **skin repair** using cellular material.



Meredith Vieira



Bill Hemmer

Dr. Martin Bednar of Pfizer moderated a panel of leaders looking at adult stem cell treatments for **brain and spinal injury**. The panel included Dr. Dong Kim, surgeon for Gabrielle Giffords, among others.



Roxane Beygi, MS Patient Treated with Adult Stem Cells

More than 20% of the health care dollars in the U.S. is spent on the care of people with diagnosed **diabetes**. Three researchers looked at how adult stem cells and other cellular therapies offer the opportunity to develop cost-effective therapeutic strategies.

**Anti-aging, longevity, and epigenetics** researchers explored the current investigations underway into the role of adult stem cells in prolonging life. This included a unique look at patients with Laron syndrome and their absence of cancer and diabetes.

As opposed to a strictly scientific conference, the Vatican event looked at the implications of adult stem cell science from a variety of perspectives.



Tommy Thompson, Peggy Noonan and Norm Coleman

A discussion on **'The Politics, Perceptions & Promise'** of stem cell therapies was held with Tommy Thompson, former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary, former Senator Norm Coleman, former President's Council on Bioethics member William Hurlbut, and moderator Peggy Noonan of the *Wall Street Journal*.



Dr. Dong Kim

Other speakers discussed the importance of **education** and **ethical questions** related to both scientific discovery and the cellular future wherein adult stem cell treatments become standard of care.

Robin Young, an analyst for the stem cell industry, looked decades into the future to consider the impact of adult stem cells becoming a routine treatment for hundreds of millions of patients.



Dr. Vincent Giampapa

Attendees of the conference left with a new or renewed understanding of the progress being made in adult stem cell research, the real effect on patients, and the impact that this cellular revolution will have on all areas of life and culture.

SFLF would again like to take this opportunity to thank its supporters. Were it not for the generous support of many organizations and individuals, this conference would not have been possible. See page 12 for a list of major conference supporters. ■

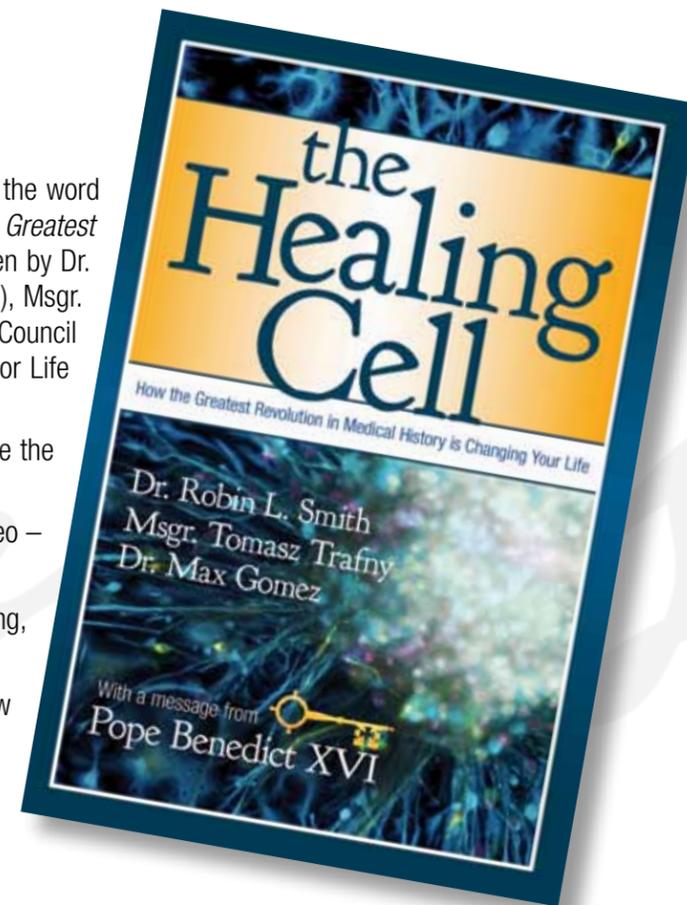
## Healing Cells

### Spreading the Word

The Stem for Life Foundation has been actively spreading the word about the April release of *The Healing Cell: How the Greatest Revolution in Medical History is Changing Your Life*, written by Dr. Robin L. Smith (President and Trustee of Stem for Life Foundation), Msgr. Tomasz Trafny (Head of Science and Faith Department, Pontifical Council for Culture of the Vatican), and Dr. Max Gomez (Trustee of Stem for Life Foundation).

Recent signings and events at which the authors spoke to promote the book include:

- March 8: Ave Maria Radio: Catholic Connection with Teresa Tomeo – Dr. Robin L. Smith and Msgr. Tomasz Trafny
- May 15: Winthrop University Hospital, Annual Medical Staff Meeting, Mineola, New York – Dr. Max Gomez
- May 15: The MetLife Foundation Awards in Medical Research, New York City – Dr. Max Gomez
- May 2: Dallas, Texas – Dr. Robin L. Smith and Dr. Max Gomez
- May 21: The Princeton Club, New York City – Dr. Max Gomez
- June 14: WOR 710 AM book club – Dr. Max Gomez



### What people are saying about *The Healing Cell*:

"The future is upon us. Cell therapy is taking medicine where drugs cannot. *The Healing Cell* is a guide to how this evolving technology can offer patients living with many serious conditions - including my MS - something we barely know: hope."

#### Richard M. Cohen

*New York Times* best-selling author of *Blindsided* and *Strong at the Broken Places*

"This book distinguishes itself from the multiplicity of websites and books on the subject of stem cells by being scientifically, politically, and most important, ethically correct, and it does so in an entertaining way. Quite a remarkable accomplishment."

#### Tommy Thompson

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services from 2001 to 2005

"The authors offer a clear, calm and yet somehow startling overview of the remarkable promise of adult stem cell therapies and research. The book is worthy of its subject matter."

#### Peggy Noonan

Columnist for *The Wall Street Journal* and best-selling author



# SFL President Honored by Vatican

## Dr. Robin Smith

### President of SFL Presented With Award by President of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Culture

At the April Vatican conference, Dr. Robin Smith, President of SFL and Chairman and CEO of NeoStem, was presented with the *Key Founder's Award* by Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture, for her work in driving forward the joint initiative between the partners and in developing conferences that receive worldwide media attention. About this honor, Dr. Smith said, "I am so honored to receive this award, and I'd like to accept it on behalf of everyone at the Stem for Life Foundation. This recognition inspires me to work even harder for the hundreds of millions of people around the world for whom we are fighting." ■



Dr. Robin Smith receiving the *Key Founder's Award*

Honorees continued from page 6



Dr. Sol Barer receiving the *Key Visionary Award*

*Award* at the Second Vatican Conference. Dr. Bosarge is the author of over 20 scientific papers and holds both B.S. and M.S. degrees in applied mathematics from the Georgia Institute of Technology as well as a Ph.D. degree in applied mathematics from Brown University. Dr. Bosarge is active in supporting various research efforts in the treatment and prevention of cancer.

The 2012 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine winner, **Sir John Gurdon** has made many admirable contributions to science. Dr. Gurdon received the *Key Scientific Award* at the April Conference. He studied nuclear transplantation in the frog *Xenopus* with Michael Fischberg, Ph.D., and obtained the first clone of genetically identical adult vertebrate animals and demonstrated genetic totipotency of somatic cell nuclei. He did postdoctoral work at Cal-Tech (Pasadena,

California) on bacteriophage genetics. He later became the head of Cell Biology at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge and initiated the Cancer Research Campaign Unit of Molecular Embryology. In 1990, he moved to the new Wellcome CRC Institute of Cancer and Developmental Biology in Cambridge and served as chairman from 1990 to 2001. In 2001, the Institute was renamed The Gurdon Institute. From 1995 to 2002, Dr. Gurdon was master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, and governor of the Wellcome Trust from 1995 to 2000.



Sir John Gurdon receiving the *Key Scientific Award*

# Honorees of the 2013 Vatican Conference

Throughout the Second International Vatican Adult Stem Cell Conference, the Vatican and the Stem for Life Foundation honored individuals whose dedication and courage advanced the paradigm shift towards regenerative medicine. Such achievements were made through scientific research, business investments, and enduring treatment as patients.

## Pontifical Key Awards:

**Professor Silviu Itescu** received the *Key Innovator Award* for his leadership and ingenuity in translational science and clinical medicine with adult stem cell therapy. He has established an outstanding reputation as an active faculty member of Melbourne and Monash Universities in Australia and as a physician scientist in the fields of stem cell biology, autoimmune diseases, organ transplantation, and heart failure. As Mesoblast's Chief Executive Officer, the company has grown to become the world's largest regenerative medicine company and is in late-stage development of biotherapeutics based on its broad, proprietary adult mesenchymal precursor cell technology platform for a diverse range of intransigent diseases.

With recognition of his wisdom and forward thinking in scientific discovery, the *Key Visionary Award* was



Professor Silviu Itescu receiving the *Key Innovator Award*

presented to **Dr. Sol J. Barer** for his visionary leadership of the stem cell field and his pioneering of adult stem cell therapy innovation. Through his leadership at Celgene Corporation for more than two decades, Dr. Barer made key investments in the development of stem cell technologies, investigating placental-derived cell and biomaterial technologies in clinical trials. He is committed to the discovery, development, and commercialization of novel human cellular-based therapeutic products for the treatment of severe and debilitating diseases. Like many, Dr. Barer believes that adult stem cell research validates the growing promise that these cells will cure an increasing number of diseases in our lifetimes.

**Dr. W. E. Bosarge** began his generous support of SFLF during the First Vatican Adult Stem Cell Conference. His devotion, generosity, and support of adult stem cell research earned him the *Key Philanthropy*

Continued on page 7



Dr. W. E. Bosarge receiving the *Key Philanthropy Award*

## Pontifical Hero Awards

### Elizabeth Lobato

Born with osteogenesis imperfecta (OI), Elizabeth was given a dire prognosis. Children with OI usually grow no taller than three and a half feet and have severe bone deformities. Most spend their lives in wheelchairs and even the slightest jolt or bump can cause their bones to fracture, causing incredible pain. However, Elizabeth has fought the disease through participation in an innovative treatment under Dr. Edwin Horwitz, using her father's adult stem cells to encourage her growth. While under treatment, Elizabeth grew six inches and was able to leave her wheelchair.



Elizabeth Lobato

### Ciaran Finn-Lynch

The first child to receive a stem cell-supported trachea transplant, in March 2010 at Great Ormond Street Hospital in the United Kingdom, Ciaran continues to do well post-transplant. Like Elizabeth, Ciaran was also given a dire prognosis at birth. He was diagnosed with long segment tracheal stenosis, a condition that leaves sufferers with a very narrow



Ciaran Finn-Lynch

Continued on page 8

windpipe and difficulties breathing. Dr. Paolo De Coppi, part of Ciaran's transplant team, believes that the success of Ciaran's procedure points to a future in which these cells can be used to grow more complex organs which are made up of different types of tissues.

### Patricia Berry

When her country called, Patricia answered and served her fellow citizens with great honor. When an earthquake and tsunami destroyed Haiti and the world looked away, Patricia embraced the millions of men, women, and children living in camps or on the streets. When the Revelation Network, a vital media channel for churches, people, and communities needed



Patricia Berry

to develop the latest technologies in their quest to close communication gaps between interfaith clergy and their congregations, Patricia was there. She has been a leader with strength, wisdom, and humility, and was recognized at a special ceremony in New York City.

### Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali, one of the most beloved international sports figures of all time, has remained active as a philanthropist and ambassador of peace since retiring from boxing in 1981. Amongst countless charitable acts, Mr. Ali has delivered medical supplies to Cuba, provided meals to the world's hungry, and helped secure the release of U.S. hostages during the first Gulf War. Whether through the Muhammad Ali Center, which he co-founded with his wife, Lonnie Ali, or the Athletes for Hope not-for-profit organization, Mr. Ali has been a tireless advocate for Parkinson's Disease and the healing potential of adult stem cell therapies. ■



Muhammad Ali

of MS as it re-educates the immune system to specifically recognize myelin-reactive T cells (MRTCs) as pathogenic and suppress them, thereby inhibiting further destruction of the myelin sheath.

**SFLF:** What is the prognosis for patients with SPMS, and what led to the FDA granting a Fast Track Drug Development designation to Opexa for the development of Tcelna to treat SPMS?

**Warma:** The prognosis for patients with SPMS is, unfortunately, very poor. SPMS is characterized by a steady accrual of irreversible disability. The physical, cognitive, and emotional complications of SPMS substantially reduce quality of life. As disability accumulates, independence is increasingly compromised. Unfortunately, the treatment options for these patients are very limited. Opexa was granted Fast Track Designation by the FDA in SPMS because of the clear unmet medical need and the potential Tcelna has to become the first safe and effective treatment for SPMS.

**SFLF:** How does Tcelna work for patients, and what does it mean that it is a "personalized" therapy?

**Warma:** The proposed mechanism of action for Tcelna encompasses a reduction in circulating MRTCs, and an up-regulation in the regulatory cellular components of the immune system. Tcelna is an autologous (derived from the patient's own blood) T-cell immunotherapy administered as a course of 5 doses over a year. Using a proprietary epitope profiling assay, a patient's myelin peptide reactivity is assessed prior to manufacture of the treatment, and the patient receives Tcelna tailored to his or her individual profile of MRTCs. Much like the concept behind vaccinations, this repeated exposure to the target antigens is intended to re-educate the patient's immune system, inducing an immune response against the MRTCs and restoring immune regulation. Each year, every patient receives a personalized dose of Tcelna that is precisely tailored to match his or her disease profile.

**SFLF:** Opexa has another platform to produce monocyte-derived stem cells from blood. What do you expect these cells can be used for, and what are their advantages?

**Warma:** Opexa's stem cell platform generates monocyte-derived stem cells (MDSC), which have been shown to differentiate into three main cell classifications: endoderm, mesoderm, and ectoderm. Examples of these are heart muscle cells, hepatic (liver) cells, skin, blood cells, and pancreatic cells. These differentiated cells are autologous, meaning there is no risk of rejection from the body since the original cells came from that same person. There is also the potential to freeze one's own stem cells through a banking process and use them when needed. This form of cellular therapy could conceivably provide differentiated cells for treatment of a variety of medical diseases. Opexa's initial research has been focused on the generation of beta islet cells, which could then be either put directly back into the pancreas where they produce insulin or injected into the portal vein where these beta cells grow and divide within the liver tissue.

**SFLF:** There has been growing interest in the cell therapy industry by large pharmaceutical companies. Can you tell us about Opexa's relationship with Merck?

**Warma:** Opexa and Merck Serono signed an option and licensing agreement in February of this year for development of Tcelna. It represented an important milestone in cell therapy, marking one of the first partnerships in cell therapy between a large multinational pharmaceutical company and a small biotech company. Potential payments to Opexa from the agreement could total \$225 million not including royalties based upon the successful development and commercialization of Tcelna for SPMS. Opexa is very pleased to have partnered with Merck Serono, especially given their long-term strategic commitment to, and existing franchise position in, the field of multiple sclerosis. ■

## T-Cells Treating Multiple Sclerosis

The Company's leading therapy candidate, Tcelna™, is a T-cell immunotherapy that is in a Phase IIb clinical development program (the Abili-T trial) for the treatment of secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS).

The Stem for Life Foundation recently spoke with Neil K. Warma, President and CEO of Opexa since June 2008. Mr. Warma has more than 20 years of executive level experience in the life sciences industry in the U.S., Europe, and Canada. His experience includes several senior management positions at Novartis Pharmaceuticals at its corporate headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, in international policy and advocacy and global marketing. Prior to joining Opexa, Mr. Warma served as President and CEO and a member of the Board of Directors of Viron Therapeutics, Inc., a privately held clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing a novel class of protein therapeutics.

**SFLF:** Opexa Therapeutics lead platform uses T cells. Can you explain what these cells are and why they show potential for SPMS?

**Warma:** T cells are one type of white blood cell in the immune system. With MS, they become sensitized to myelin and cross the blood-brain barrier into the central nervous system (CNS). Once in the CNS, these T cells cause the destruction of myelin. This demyelination causes nerve impulses to be slowed or halted and produces the symptoms of SPMS. We believe our T-cell platform shows potential for the treatment

Continued on page 9



### Q&A with Neil Warma

Opexa Therapeutics, Inc., is a publicly traded biotechnology company dedicated to the development of patient-specific cellular therapies for the treatment of autoimmune diseases.

## The Vatican Conference in the News

The conference was covered widely by the press, including stories and interviews through outlets such as CNN.com, the Wall Street Journal print and radio network, Bloomberg TV, Fox News Channel, Fox News, CBS, NPR, Catholic TV, Vatican Radio, Catholic News Agency, EWTN, and more. Media coverage promoted the conference, but also helped to explain the Church's support for ethical research,

highlighted the current progress occurring around the world in adult stem cell research and therapies, and told many of the stories of stem cell patients who spoke at or were honored at the conference. ■



# Student Ambassador Program Launches

A highlight of the April 2013 Vatican Conference was the launch by The Stem for Life Foundation of one of its key initiatives to spread awareness about the power and promise of cellular therapy - The Student Ambassadors for the Cellular Age Program. The Program featured an inaugural class of 26 students representing 12 countries and 6 continents..

The Stem for Life Foundation seeks to inspire the next generation about the power of and advances in adult stem cell science and the role cellular therapy will play in medicine and in alleviating human suffering. Spanning many disciplines and ages, these students share a common belief in the need to spread awareness throughout the world on the here-and-now opportunities of adult stem cell therapies. Through their participation in the program, they have agreed to return to their schools to develop strategies to further this goal in partnership with each other and with their faculties and administrations.



At the Vatican Conference, the students attended all of the Conference sessions, promoted the message of the conference to their friends and peers via social media, and engaged with each other and the conference organizers to discuss future possible initiatives. The students returned to their schools empowered to spread the word about the healing cells inside all of us.

If you or someone you know is interested in applying to join the Student Ambassadors for the Cellular Age Program, please write to [studentambassadorprogram@stemforlife.org](mailto:studentambassadorprogram@stemforlife.org) for more information. ■



The inaugural class of the Student Ambassadors for the Cellular Age Program at the 2013 Vatican Conference with Stem for Life Foundation Trustee, Catherine Vaczy, Esq. (center) and Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, President and CEO of the Center for Interreligious Understanding (right)

Partnership Extension continued from page 1

Accomplishments of this extraordinary collaboration to date are:

- The First and Second International Vatican Adult Stem Cell Conferences, which gathered the foremost experts in adult stem cell research alongside distinguished leaders in the fields of life sciences, medicine, religion, ethics, and public policy.
- A special edition of the Pontifical Council for Culture's quarterly journal, *Cultures and Faith*, which published works by many of the speakers of the 2011 Vatican Conference, as well as articles by other leaders in

## A Night to Remember

Mesoblast Inc., a lead sponsor for the Second International Vatican Adult Stem Cell Conference, generously hosted an evening dinner for attendees of the three-day event. The gala gave attendees the opportunity to celebrate the field of regenerative medicine. Attendees mingled and shared their reactions to the information they learned during the conference and shared their own cellular therapy experiences. Most of all, the gala served as an opportunity to give thanks to the countless individuals who contributed their time and funding to make this inspiring event happen.

The conference pulled together high profile journalists, scientists, policy makers, and even celebrities. With all of them having active roles in the conference agenda, the gala was a chance to thank them for donating their time to the public education of adult stem cells. Thanked first and foremost was Monsignor Tomasz Trafny, who was awarded the *Key Foundation Award* for his dedication to the adult stem cell joint initiative and for his tireless efforts to reach out to the public and the Catholic community to raise awareness of adult stem cells. ■



Richard M. Cohen and Meredith Vieira

the field of stem cell science.

- The creation of the recently published book about adult stem cells for the public, *The Healing Cell: How the Greatest Revolution in Medical History Is Changing Your Life*.
- The launch of the Student Cellular Ambassadors Program. ■



Gala guests including Peggy Noonan and Tommy Thompson



Gina Lollobrigida, Kelly Gerber, and Max Gomez



Bill Hemmer

# Major Supporters of the 2013 Conference

**Bosarge Family Foundation**

**Lowenstein  
Sandler**

**AspireCapital**



**NeoStem®**



**mesoblast**  
the regenerative medicine company

**Kenyon & Kenyon LLP**

**STOO**  
FOUNDATION

**Celgene**  
Cellular Therapeutics Division™

## JOIN US

We invite you to join our dedicated and exceptional association of scientists, physicians, advocates, educators, philanthropists, public servants, and clergy as we stride forward in unlocking the healing powers that are already inside our own bodies.

### To learn more, call:

The Stem for Life Foundation at 212.584.4176

### To make a contribution:

Visit [www.stemforlife.org](http://www.stemforlife.org) and click on To Donate

### Or send a check to:

The Stem for Life Foundation  
420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 350  
New York, NY 10170

The Stem for Life Foundation's mission is to increase awareness of and access to current and potential stem cells therapies, and to support adult stem cell research.



420 Lexington Ave., Suite 350, New York, NY 10170

Information concerning the Stem For Life Foundation, including financial or charitable purposes, can be obtained by contacting us at 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 350, New York, NY 10170 (212-584-4176). In addition, the following state notices are required in those states in which the Stem For Life Foundation has registered. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by any state. Florida: Reg. No. CH37168. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-HELP-FLA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Georgia: A full and fair description of the programs of Stem for Life Foundation and our financial statement summary is available upon request at 95 Wells Avenue, Suite 155, Newton, MA 02459-3204; 888-383-4483. Maryland: For the cost of copies and postage, documentation and financial information submitted to the Secretary of State is available from the Secretary of State, Charitable Division, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401. Mississippi: The official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167. Colorado: Colorado residents may obtain copies of registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State's office at website <http://www.sos.state.co.us/> or by phone (303-894-2200 ext. 6487). Michigan: MICS No. 48066. New Jersey: INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING 973-504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.state.nj.us/ps/ca/charity/chardir.htm>. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. New York: Upon request, a copy of the latest annual report can be obtained from the organization or from the Office of the Attorney General by writing to the Charities Bureau at 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. North Carolina: Financial information about us and a copy of our license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. Pennsylvania: The official registration and financial information of Stem for Life Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Virginia: A financial statement for the most recent fiscal year is available upon request from the State Division of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218; 1-804-786-1343. Washington: You may obtain additional financial disclosure information by contacting the Secretary of State at 1-800-332-GIVE. West Virginia: West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Bldg. 1, Room 157-K, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25305.