



## Truhlsens to receive Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures “Tribute to Research Award”

**N**ebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures, formerly Nebraskans for Research, is honoring Dorothy and Stanley M. Truhlsen, M.D., at its 2009 Tribute to Research luncheon. The luncheon will be held on Monday, April 27th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at Happy Hollow Club in Omaha.

The Truhlsens are long time supporters of medical research and education. They are major contributors to three state-of-the-art facilities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, to the organization Prevent Blindness, and to numerous other health organizations. Dr. Truhlsen is particularly interested in research and education in ophthalmology, his area of expertise.

Emeritus professor and former chairman of UNMC’s department of ophthalmology, Dr. Truhlsen is nationally recognized in his field. In 2001, he received the Lucien Howe Medal from the American Ophthalmological Society (AOS), the oldest ophthalmic organization in the United States. Considered one of the most prestigious awards in ophthalmology, the Howe Medal is given in recognition of “conspicuous services as a researcher or a teacher during long years of devotion” and for contributions to ophthalmology. Dr. Truhlsen also received UNMC’s

Distinguished Service to Medicine Award in 2003. A native of Herman, Neb., Dr. Truhlsen graduated from UNMC in 1944 and completed residencies at Albany Hospital in New York and Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Mo.

Dorothy Truhlsen is a graduate of the University of Iowa. She is a community volunteer who shares her husband’s commitment to supporting medical research.

“We are proud to present this outstanding couple with our annual award,” said Dick Holland, honorary luncheon chairman for 2009. “Their support has given Nebraska the opportunity to be at the forefront of research that will advance the quality of life for the future.”

For information on luncheon sponsorships, program advertising opportunities and luncheon tickets, visit the NCLC website: [www.nebraskacures.com](http://www.nebraskacures.com) or contact Victoria Kohout, executive director, at [Victoria@nebraskacures.com](mailto:Victoria@nebraskacures.com). Luncheon sponsors will be acknowledged at the luncheon and in the printed program.

This is the seventh year that the luncheon has been held. Past honorees are: Charles Durham, Dr. Michael Sorrell, Rik and Dr. Shannon Bonness, Harold and Marian Andersen, Dr. James Armitage and Richard Holland. Luncheon proceeds support the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures, a 501c3 organization dedicated to promoting and supporting research and ensuring that it flourishes in Nebraska.



Dorothy and Stanley  
M. Truhlsen, M.D.

### Past Honorees:

<b>Richard D. Holland</b> .....	2008
<b>James O. Armitage, M.D.</b> .....	2007
<b>Harold and Marian Andersen</b> .....	2006
<b>Rik and Dr. Shannon Bonness</b> .....	2005
<b>Michael F. Sorrell, M.D.</b> .....	2004
<b>Charles Durham</b> .....	2003

# Stem Cell Compromise Should Govern University Policy

*This opinion piece was originally published in the March 6, 2009 edition of Omaha World-Herald*

**T**he Obama administration and members of both political parties in Congress appear ready to allow federal funding on embryonic stem cell lines created after August 2001.

Thanks to the hard work of Senator Brad Ashford, Senator Steve Lathrop and Speaker Mike Flood, Nebraska has a public policy that allows Nebraska to participate in this exciting and promising research while respecting human life.

Last year the Nebraska Legislature passed stem cell legislation by a vote of 48-0. LB 606 strikes a balance between allowing research using embryonic stem cell lines while prohibiting the use of state funds to destroy an embryo for research. The measure was signed by Governor Heineman and endorsed by all major organizations opposed to embryonic stem cell research.

LB 606 is consistent with federal law, which also prohibits federal funding for the destruction of embryos for research. This restriction would remain unchanged by an Obama administration executive order expanding embryonic stem cell lines eligible for Federal funding.

Current policy by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents mirrors the provisions in LB 606.

Members of the Board of Regents can take pride in knowing that their longstanding, current policy was recently codified into state law with broad support from both advocates and opponents of embryonic stem cell research. Regents got it right almost eight years ago when they approved the Board's current policy.

They need to remain committed to their wise decision.

The field of regenerative medicine is exploding. The FDA recently approved the first clinical trial of a human embryonic stem cell-derived therapy. Privately-funded labs have created new embryonic stem cell lines from excess IVF embryos that would otherwise be discarded. Scientists are working to create specific tissues from these lines to use in the laboratory to screen effective drug therapies more safely than in clinical trials.

Embryonic stem cell studies have resulted in new techniques to reprogram skin cells into those that appear to be identical to embryonic stem cells. But preliminary

studies indicate significant differences between these induced pluripotent stem cells and embryonic stem cells. And being made with genes and viruses that can cause cancer, induced pluripotent stem cells are much further from being safe for clinical use than embryonic stem cells.

In any event, embryonic stem cells remain the standard against which all these other cells are compared and evaluated.

Many of the directions that embryonic stem cell research has taken were unforeseen 10 years ago when it was first demonstrated that human embryonic stem cells could be grown in culture in the laboratory.

Those who pioneered that work, and that in the new induced pluripotent cells, are all of the view that one day it will probably be unnecessary to use excess embryos to pursue this lifesaving research. But to get there they say we must expand our efforts in all areas of stem cell research and lift the Bush-imposed restrictions on embryonic stem cell lines eligible for Federal funding. The deficiencies of these few lines for use in research are widely documented.

If the Board of Regents were to restrict research to only the Bush-approved lines, University of Nebraska researchers would be unable to contribute their skills and dedication to this fast-moving and promising research.

Scientists at other universities would pursue this groundbreaking research utilizing the more effective embryonic stem cell lines while University of Nebraska researchers would have their hands tied. Recruiting top notch scientists would become even more difficult as states compete for the best and brightest in the field of regenerative medicine.

The quality of medical education and, ultimately, health care in Nebraska would likely suffer as a result

No one knows where the science will lead but we do know that stem cell science is the future of medicine. It offers hope to countless Nebraska patients and their families.

No Regent's action is required to allow University researchers to continue to be at the forefront in seeking cures and treatments for the most afflicted among us.

# First Science Cafe Draws Quite a Crowd

By Kacie Gerard, UNMC Public Affairs // Originally Published in *UNMC Today*, Reprinted with Permission

Students, young professionals, doctors and science teachers made up the crowd of 80 people who gathered inside Slowdown – a bar owned by Saddle Creek Records – for Omaha’s first Science Cafe.

The event -- hosted by UNMC, Bio Nebraska and the Nebraska Coalition of Lifesaving Cures -- featured UNMC’s William Thorell, M.D., discussing brain aneurysms.

The UNMC assistant professor of neurosurgery brought along visual aides such as a skull, coil and metal clip (used by surgeons to stop brain aneurysms from bleeding) for a more interactive talk.

Dr. Thorell encouraged the crowd to ask questions and attempted to make medical terms more understandable for the layperson.

“The turnout was well beyond our team’s expectations for the first Science Cafe,” said Amber Donnelly, Ph.D., director and assistant professor in the UNMC Cytotechnology Program and a member of the UNMC-led science literacy

team that conceived of having science cafes in Omaha. “One thing that really surprised me was how quiet it was in the bar when he was speaking and how intent the people were on what he was saying.”

The Science Cafes are a part of an effort by UNMC and other groups to increase the population’s science literacy. A more scientifically literate populace is a goal in UNMC’s strategic plan. Dr. Donnelly and others on a 17-member team are addressing the issue. The team is composed of UNMC faculty and staff, as well as Omaha area community leaders.

Science Cafes are a way to bring people together for informal science discussions at local coffeehouses and bars. The science literacy team’s goal with the events is to get young adults interested in science by presenting it in a casual setting. The next Science Cafe will be held Tuesday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m. at Slowdown and will feature Kendra Schmid, M.D., Assistant Professor in the College of Public Health at UNMC. Her topic will be the science of attractiveness.

## 7TH ANNUAL TRIBUTE LUNCHEON SALUTE TO DOROTHY AND STANLEY TRUHLSEN, M.D.

Monday, April 27, 2009, Happy Hollow Club,  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Seating is limited. Please detach, fill out completely  
and mail by Monday, April 20, 2009.*

### Sponsorship Levels:

- \$10,000 Platinum, 10 seats  
(*\$9,700 tax deductible*)
- \$5,000 Gold, 8 seats (*\$4,760 tax deductible*)
- \$2,500 Silver, 4 seats (*\$2,380 tax deductible*)
- \$1,000 Bronze, 2 seats (*\$940 tax deductible*)
- \$500 Copper (*\$500 tax deductible*)

### Individual Tickets/Tables:

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*Please list names of guests on the back*
- \$50 Individual seat (*\$20 tax deductible*)
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### Questions?

Contact Victoria Kohout, Executive Director  
402-390-2461 or [victoria@nebraskacures.com](mailto:victoria@nebraskacures.com)

Make checks payable to  
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