

FINDINGS

2019 WINTER NEWSLETTER

Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures
900 S. 74th Plaza, Ste. 402
Omaha, NE 68114

402.390.2461
nebraskacures.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING LUNCHEON
SAVE *the* DATE
MONDAY APRIL 29, 2019

Honoring
Rick and Carol Russell

Happy Hollow Club • Omaha, Nebraska

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Crouse, Ph.D., President
Judy Haecker, Vice-President
Lynne Boyer, Secretary
Jean Jeffrey, Treasurer

Robert Kully
Beverly Maurer
Diane Nelson
Carol Russell
G. Richard Russell
Richard A. Spellman, J.D.
Joan Squires
Mary Strand
James Turpen, Ph.D.
Danene Tushar
Donna Woods

Linda Ford, M.D.
Ann Pedersen Gleeson
Jon Hinrichs, M.D.
Chris Pilcher-Huerter
Amanda McGill Johnson
Margaret Kirkeby
Marilyn Konigsberg

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Victoria Kohout

ADVISORY BOARD

Rik Bonness
Mary Ann Holland
Barbara Schaefer
Walter Scott, Jr.
Stanley Truhlsen, M.D.
Wallace Weitz
Gail Walling Yanney, M.D.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA, NE
PERMIT #446

Nebraska Coalition
FOR LIFESAVING CURES

FINDINGS

2019 WINTER NEWSLETTER

NCLC to Honor Longtime Community Leaders at 17th Annual Spring Luncheon



Rick and Carol Russell

During their 48 years of marriage, Rick and Carol Russell have been giving back to the community they call home. Rick grew up in the family business—Millard Lumber Inc., founded by his father in 1948—and today serves as president and CEO of the company. Carol was born in Omaha, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a master's degree in pathology and worked for the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC).

Both Rick and Carol are longtime supporters of medical research and are members of the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures (NCLC). Carol was one of the founding members of Nebraskans for Research, the organization that preceded NCLC.

For the past three decades, Carol and Rick have served not only on the Coalition board, but on other boards and committees working to improve the lives of all Omahans. Carol was on the Legislative Task Force on Human Trafficking, the University of Nebraska President's advisory council, the Midlands Latino Community Development Center board of directors, the advisory council EngAge at Home Instead Senior Center, Children's Square U.S.A., NET Foundation Board and the Nebraska Children and Family Foundation board of trustees.

Rick is a member of numerous boards including the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Metropolitan Omaha Builders Association and the Alliance for Business Ethics. He also spent many years involved with Children's Hospital and Medical Center board of trustees, the board

of counselors for the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Omaha Branch board.

The Russells have three children, Joel, Sara and Mark, together with their spouses, Erin, Matthew and Sarah, and seven grandchildren.

The Coalition will also award the Chancellor Emeritus Harold M. Maurer, M.D. and Beverly Maurer Scientific Achievement award at the luncheon. The award recognizes the accomplishments of University of Nebraska scientists or clinicians who demonstrate promise in research topics that improve the lives of Nebraskans and people around the world. The award was established in 2013 to honor the Maurers.

NE SCIFEST

April 5-28, 2019

Events being held throughout Nebraska

Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures is a proud sponsor of the Nebraska Science Festival

www.nescifest.com

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

James Turpen, Ph.D.
Education Committee

This year the chairs of each of the standing committees will write about the activities of their committees, as well as their goals for the coming year. Dr. James Turpen, chair of the education committee kicks off the series.

During 2018, the education committee focused on defining the goals and objectives of year one in the strategic plan and moving forward with the implementation of several aspects of this plan.

Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures representatives met with Area Health Education Center (AHEC) leaders at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK) to review prior activities and determine the best way for NCLC to support these activities. Once again, the Coalition will donate \$15,000, allowing AHEC to support nine regional science meets for approximately 500 eighth graders. This support is consistent with our long-standing commitment to science literacy partnerships.

The committee also recommended continued support for the annual Science Festival with a desire to expand our reach to include more high school students, while expanding our outreach to K-8 students.

We also initiated a pilot program in collaboration with the AHEC office in Kearney. This program will focus on expanding our reach (and possibly that of AHEC) to high school students, incentivizing teacher participation and enhancing community engagement in the Kearney area. AHEC hired an assistant director at UNK and UNMC, and has expanded its College of Allied Health Professions to UNK.

Representatives of the Education committee traveled to UNK AHEC to meet with the directors and discussed how best to provide support. The representatives also initiated discussions regarding the establishment of an NCLC chapter at Kearney. Dr. David Crouse, president of the Coalition, has made several trips to Kearney to establish community contacts and participate in Science Cafes.

As the end of 2018 approached, we requested outcome data from AHEC and the Science Festivals in order to evaluate these initiatives. We also reviewed the outcome data for the Richard Holland Future Scientist award which is provided to students in the INBRE Scholar's Program. At this point, 64 students have received these awards: 30 per cent of these scholars have pursued careers in scientific research, 20 per cent have pursued careers in the health professions and 14 per cent have joined the scientific workforce in biotechnology-related industries. Our review of these data led us to conclude that the initiatives were meeting our goals and the committee recommended continuation of the programs in 2019.

NEWS & NOTES

Why Researchers Say Fetal Tissue is Essential For Medical Research

Portions of this article were taken from Healthline, published on Jan. 5

Written by Matt Berger

Republican leaders have said they want to ban fetal tissue use, but researchers say that would harm efforts to find treatments for HIV and other diseases.

Over the years, fetal tissue has been vital in finding vaccines for diseases, including polio. But new efforts by some Republicans in Washington have brought the use of fetal tissue in medical research back under scrutiny.

Opponents of fetal tissue research have pushed for finding alternatives. Dr. Lawrence Goldstein, PhD, from University of California at San Diego says it's at least possible that one day there could be something to replace fetal tissue. "But we don't know how long it's going to take," he said. "And it's going to take fetal tissue itself to find out if the alternatives work."



CRISPR Bombshell: Chinese Scientist Says He's First to Create Genetically Modified Babies Using CRISPR

Parts of this article were aired on Morning Edition/NPR Nov. 26, 2018

Reported by Rob Stein

On November 26, 2018, news broke of a Chinese scientist who claimed he was the first to create genetically modified babies using the gene-editing technique CRISPR to create twin girls.

The scientist, He Jiankui of the Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, China, said his team performed "gene surgery" on embryos created from

their parents' sperm and eggs to protect the children from HIV. The children's father is HIV-positive.

"Two beautiful little Chinese girls named Lulu and Nana came crying into the world as healthy as any other babies a few weeks ago," He said in a video posted online. "The babies are home now with their mom Grace and their dad Mark."

Reaction to the announcement was swift, initiating a firestorm of criticism, with some scientists and bioethicists calling the work "premature," "ethically problematic," and even "monstrous."

The Chinese Society for Cell Biology issued a statement calling the research "a serious violation of the Chinese government's laws and regulations and the consensus of the Chinese scientific community." He's university issued a statement saying it has launched an investigation into the research, which it says may "seriously violate academic ethics and academic norms."

Since He's announcement in November, he has become the subject of several investigations. Business Insider reported recently that several news outlets said that He has been detained and may face the death penalty, though the scientist has reportedly said he is fine.

Stem Cell Shots Linked to Bacterial Infection Outbreak

Portions of this article were taken from Associated Press article published December 20, 2018

Written by Mike Stobbe

According to reports by the Associated Press, an outbreak of bacterial infections in people who got injections of stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood has been discovered in at least 12 patients in three states.

Health officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

said patients in Florida, Texas and Arizona became infected after receiving injections for problems like joint and back pain.

Investigators don't think the contamination occurred at the clinics where the shots were given, but rather at the company Liveyon in Yorba Linda, California, from where the vials were distributed.

The Food and Drug Administration has sent a warning to Genetech Inc., the San Diego company that processed the stem cells saying it should not be marketing the stem cells without regulators' approval.



Nebraska Coalition
FOR LIFESAVING CURES

We've Moved Upstairs

Our new suite is #402.