

[Nepsis-Ramirez Stem Cell Program Update](#)

The Phoenix II lifts off and achieves healing warp!



(Photo is of NASA's Phoenix spacecraft: Image credit - NASA/Sandra Joseph and John Kechele)

From [Stem Cell Medicine Jumps to Warp Speed](#) (Abridged)

I hope you saw the movie, *Star Trek: First Contact* because it bears directly on what I am about to share.

For those who have only a nodding acquaintance with ST, the focus of this particular movie is on the [launch and successful flight of the first warp \(faster-than-light\) space craft](#) dubbed the Phoenix on April 5th, 2063. In the ST world, this ship is the brainchild of a maverick (and often inebriated) genius named Zefram Cochran, who pilots the inaugural flight despite a deep-seated dislike of flying.

Following its launch and achievement of warp speed, the Phoenix's flight is detected by an alien (Vulcan - remember Mr. Spock?) vessel which happens to be passing through our solar system on a routine scientific survey. The Vulcans trace the Phoenix to its launch site and wind up landing near-by and disembarking. This epochal first contact meeting, of course, decisively retires the notion that our species is alone in the universe and sets in motion societal and other changes that culminate in the birth of the "Federation of Planets".

So what does this have to do with the price of corn? I'll tell you.

In-a-nutshell: I have the good fortune to be involved with a group of stem cell researchers which is headed up by a sober version of Zephram Cochran, Chauncey B. Sayre. What Chauncey and his bench crew have basically come up with is the biological equivalent of warp drive. That is, he has pioneered literally revolutionary technology that truly is poised to send stem cell (regenerative/restorative) medicine into high orbit. These patent pending brainchildren of this modern day Dr. Cochran are now operational in Mexico, where the regulatory atmosphere allows warp trips much more readily than here stateside.

These novel technologies and supportive regimens will ultimately be licensed to various clinics and hospitals elsewhere, most likely in countries whose health regulatory agencies fast track getting discoveries from the lab into the clinical environment. To me, this confluence of inventions, discoveries and complementary protocols constitutes the biological equivalent of Star Trek's fictional warp speed technology. In honor of this, I dubbed this marriage of bench and clinical innovation the "Phoenix II."

It is a quaint and perhaps even melodramatic bit of mental imagery, but I think the analogy holds up. What the Phoenix II stands to do for medicine – for turning the tables on many insidious and possibly later on even aging itself – is very real and no pipedream or fantasy. Have your doubts? Keep your eyes on what unfolds during the next two years or so. I fully expect skepticism to give way to unbridled enthusiasm and even astonishment in the not so distant future.

ALS Patient Jerry Porter Takes a Ride into Healing Warp on the Phoenix II



Chief Eng. Jerry Porter

Jerry Porter, 44 calls ships his 2nd home. And no wonder, having served 5 years with distinction aboard various ships in the US Coast Guard and then many years as first a tech, then an engineer aboard various private fishing vessels, most operating out of the Pacific

Northwest. Not unexpectedly, by the early 2000s Porter was chief engineer on a large commercial ship that sails out of Seattle and fishes the waters of Alaska. He had the world by the tail and every reason to believe the future would be as bright and filled with promise as his past had been. And why not? He was healthy, robust, doing well in his chosen career, and had a loving supportive wife (Monica) and daughter (Rachel) who kept the home fires burning while he was away at sea. But unbeknownst to him a rouge wave was about to strike and threaten to capsize his life.



Chief Porter's storm-at-sea began with some numbness in the fingers of one hand, bothersome but not overly alarming. No one wants to think the worse and Porter was no exception. And then, too, he had been exposed to freon gas, so maybe what he was experiencing was merely a side-effect of that. But when his hand locked up and made it impossible to manipulate tools or even hold a spoon, he knew something was afoot. Porter's ship's doctor had his own qualms, and elected to send Porter ashore for a complete neurologic work-up. By 2005 the doctors had a verdict: Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis -- Lou's Gehrig's disease.

Not unlike most other ALS sufferers, Chief Porter set out on a quest to determine what he could do to get the upper hand on his particular affliction. Since standard, FDA approved drugs confer little in the way of benefit, he began researching unproved but promising treatments. This led him to try umbilical cord stem cell therapy outside the USA, which led to short-lived improvements. Later, he implemented a novel program for ALS which ultimately wound up published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Medical Hypotheses* [Experimental regimen targeting the ependyma slows disease progression in four patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis](#) According to Chief Porter, most of the people he knows that were diagnosed with ALS at the same time he was wound up severely disabled or dead while he hung in and was able to keep walking, driving and caring for himself.

Of course, like all ALS patients Chief Porter's disease did progress, eventually eroding his ability to keep his balance if bumped into by other people, his ability to lift his arms, button his shirt, and so forth. Not surprisingly he was as relentless, methodical and logical in his quest for leading edge promising treatments as he had been in fixing broken engines and machinery on the ships he had served aboard. Naturally stem cell approaches figured prominently in Chief Porter's unending search for the road to Wellville.

One of the stem cell research programs Chief Porter kept tabs on was underway at Weller Health Institute & Laboratory in southern California. Here, researcher Chauncey Sayre and his team pioneered innovative ways to take bone marrow derived precursor cells and not only prime them to become neurons, heart cells, etc. but also program them to zero in on desired tissues or organs. In addition, these intrepid scientists developed a method for transforming liver cells into fully pluripotent stem cells (iPS - induced pluripotent cells) without the use of viruses or the kinds of cell-altering chemicals used by researchers elsewhere in the world. And as if these genuinely revolutionary scientific innovations were not enough, Chauncey came up with a method for replicating cells at an unprecedented rate, such that hundreds of millions of stem cells can be generated almost overnight!

Chief Porter liked what he was seeing unfold in Weller's think tank and lab. Told this technology would be licensed during 2009 to Nepsis Institute-Mexico for experimental use by doctors at the Fernando Ramirez Clinic (Tijuana), he was among the very first to signal his desire to be treated with cells taken from his own body and "engineered" to tackle his disease. He didn't have to wait long.

On February 26th Porter had about a teaspoon of bone marrow removed from his hip bone by Dr. Fernando Ramirez Del Rio and his medical team (in Mexico). The marrow was entrusted to scientists and technicians who proceeded to extract precursor cells, then prepare them to work repair in his CNS (Central Nervous System). These cells were then turned over to the Mexican surgeons who proceeded to infuse them into Chief Porter's CNS using an intrathecal procedure (AKA a lumbar puncture or spinal tap).

In the weeks that followed Porter reported numerous changes and improvements in his condition. Then, on March 12th he submitted a brief, but detailed analysis that listed and compared a number of bodily functions and capacities pre and post stem cell treatment. This is Chief Porter's report:

As promised ...the following is a list of my improvements from February 26, the day of my procedure, to date:

I first want to reiterate the following improvements are set from a physical fitness test I put myself through on February 23rd to establish a bench mark in hopes of gauging all improvements. I am extremely excited to report the following.

My first test was a verbal one. I timed myself to see how far I could read aloud a specific paragraph in one of my engineering manuals while focusing on annunciating the words as clearly and quickly as I could. I tested myself again yesterday 3-11-09 for the first time since the original test and was able to read 2-1/2 paragraphs in the same amount of time and much more clearly I might add. Everyone is commenting on how improved my speech has become. However, there are times when my speech will be slurred but this is normally after eating or drinking something.

Physical Fitness Test

Function	Pre-Treatment (Feb. 23 rd)	Post-Treatment (3-11)
Right arm fully extended out in front of me.	Not able to do	28 seconds
Left arm fully extended out in front of me.	4 seconds	30 seconds
Both arms fully extended out in front of me	Not able to do	27 seconds
Right arm fully extended above my head	3 seconds	32 seconds
Left arm fully extended above my head	5 seconds	31 seconds
Both arms fully extended above my head	Not able to do	29 seconds
Right arm curls with 2.5 lb	Not able to do	Not able to do
Left arm curls with 2.5 lb	Not able to do	3.5 reps
Towel dry my hair	Not able to do	Able to do
Put on ankle socks	Not able to do	Able to do
Put on shirts	Not able to do	Able to do (Cannot button)
Left ring finger downward strength	No strength	Able to push downward
Walking	Very difficult (but was possible)	Much easier (legs no longer lock with each step)
Raising bottle of water to my mouth	Not able to do	Able to do, but difficult
Feeding myself	Difficult, sometimes requiring help	Much easier, no longer require help
Grabbing items utilizing opposable digits	Not able to do	Extremely difficult

Okay Doc, that is all I have for now.

Please know that I am forever grateful to the entire Weller/Nepsis team.

Keep up the great work!

Jerry Porter
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I am looking forward to the iPS line. Hopefully, someone will donate the funds required to purchase the equipment you need to make the iPS line available.

It is anticipated that sometime in the next six months Chief Porter will be treated in Mexico with iPS cells created from a sample of his own liver cells. These cells will be programmed to zero in on and repair or otherwise ameliorate the various players in ALS. The scientists who developed this technology as well as the research doctors in Mexico are all convinced that the improvements that will be seen after this particular treatment will far exceed those of the bone marrow derived precursor cell therapy Porter just had. To coin an old phrase from the world of TV and movies, "Stay tuned -- the best is yet to come!"



A sentiment shared by all the crew of the P-II

[Embracing the Disenfranchised](#) - America, Seig Heil! In the Nazi death camps doctors sent the victims of the Third Reich's Social Darwinist laws and policies to the right (starvation, work, disease) or the left (Gassing & cremation). Are some modern actions and decisions based on a similar tendency to categorize and marginalize others who are different (Older, sicker, etc.)?

[For Those Considering Doing Stem Cell Therapy Abroad](#)

[Private Foreign Stem Cell Clinics: Most Are Not Doing Hard Science Yet -- Though Some Are Working On It](#)

[Stem Cell Medicine Jumps to Warp Speed - The Flight of the Phoenix II](#)

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