

Rocking the Boat



Information, personal musings, thoughts, gripes, and just plain old cage rattling from the mind-keyboard interfaced world of Dr. Anthony G. Payne

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TRANSITION, DISCOVERY, MORE

VOL. 2, NO. 1

Welcome to the second edition of my personal mix of “sharing, caring and bearing”

CHANGE OF VENUE FOR OLE’ DOC PAYNE

For those of you unaware of it, I left the ranks of *Nepsis Institute & Biogenesis Institute* at the end of June and have been taking on a wide variety of projects and positions ever since. One involves filling a role in the educational and PR arm of physician David Steenblock’s organization. In-a-word I am wordsmith; one who works from his home-office. *EGO write proinde EGO sum* – I write therefore I am – and vice versa (Forgive my rotten Latin, O’ Reader!) Since IMO socialization loosed from instinct coupled with symbolic language were powerful players in human evolution, I am expressing a wondrous and integral facet of what it is to be part of the human family.

Of course, being a native North Texan , I tend to employ more colorful language when speaking than in most my writing. It “comes with the territory” as it were. Those who chat with me by phone or face-to-face know this well and are almost always most forgiving or tolerant of this southerner’s *Pattonesque* tendencies.

However, do not confuse this with my being a conservative or Neocon or a member of the Tea Party fraternity. I am, in fact, an unabashed social-economic policy and political liberal and have been since I was young. General Patton the democratic socialist, if you will.

As a theorist I am still quite busy spinning new angles for coaxing Mother Nature to “cooperate” when it comes to effecting repair and restoration in folks with intractable and even terminal diseases and medical conditions. At the moment a group of hematologists including the man in charge of the profession in northwest Mexico, [Dr. Julio E. Selva](#), are helping move some of my brainchildren from the realm of ideas and bench experiments to clinical research.

I am also lending some of my time and energies to a fairly new research enterprise in Mexico, [Nova Cells Institute](#), whose chief biochemist, Abel Pena, has developed what appears to be a powerful new stem cell processing & priming method. This was actually employed to program autologous bone marrow derived stem cells harvested from two ALS patients, one an American chap and the other a Mexican gentleman. Both were pretty bad off going into their

series of treatments (two to-date) – the American choking on his food and having breathing problems, the Mexican unable to walk without a walker and hard to understand due to very slurred speech -- but are now showing regained functioning in these and other areas. Nota bene: Their respective treatments took about eight weeks to “kick in” in terms of producing clearly unmistakable gains in motor function. You can read more about this in this Nova Cells news release: <http://www.prlog.org/11039603-breakthrough-stem-cell-treatment-brings-major-improvements-to-als-sufferers.html>

More on ALS follows immediately below.

BEATING BACK THE DEVIL – ALS COVERAGE CONTINUED FROM THE FIRST EDITION OF “ROCKING THE BOAT”

In the [first edition](#) of “Rocking the Boat” I share some thoughts that bear repeating here:

“If you don’t believe in a personal Devil AKA Satan, let me introduce you to his Earthly incarnation: ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis). I truly believe that if I could travel back in time to 1942 and challenge the attendees of the infamous [Wansee conference](#) in Berlin (where the Holocaust was mapped out) to come up with a single supremely insidious way to inflict unremitting mental torment on people– they wouldn’t come up with anything as monstrous as ALS. Think about it: A disease that whittles away your motor functions until you wind up a puddle of unmoving flesh in a bed or wheelchair – fully conscious – kept alive by a respirator -- lying there day-after-day waiting for your lungs and heart to fail.”



And:

“Rather than wait for a clinical trial that may never come, many (ALS sufferers) are opting to head to research and treatment centers outside the US for experimental therapies of various kinds. The vast majority involve some form of stem or progenitor cell intervention – some autologous (cells from self) – some allogenic (Donor cells such as cord blood stem cells, fetal cells) – some both. There are risks involved, yes; though these appear “few and far between” (Tens of thousands of cord stem cell, fetal cell and other adult stem cell treatments are done annually across the world with reports of adverse side effects or worse being exceedingly rare).”

Of course, critics readily and in many instances justifiably find fault with foreign stem cell medicine programs, much of this based on the fact that some of these operations are basically throwing desperate people a lifeline that is anchored to dubious, even worthless treatments. However, I see a tendency on the part of some stem cell experts to dismiss just about every foreign private stem cell clinical operation they run across or which is brought to their attention as scams, smoke-and-mirrors or worse. Some of these folks actually have ties to private stem cell development companies here in North America and elsewhere. Some actually founded their own stem cell based companies or hold high positions in those founded by other people. One can’t help but wonder how often their opinions reflect a confirmation bias at work.

Then, too, I find it telling that some of the most revered stem cell researchers back around 2003 or so were quick to dismiss as “nonsense” reports that cord blood and pure cord blood

derived stem cell treatments being done in Mexico were producing neurologic benefits in children with cerebral palsy. Today some of these very scientists are involved with and in some instances running clinical research programs involving the use of cord blood to treat pediatric CP.

Most folks I've spoke to about these disparities label this "politics." In some instances, perhaps so. But in other instances I see the all-too-human kind of propensity to form *a priori* judgments at work. Consider: Back in the 1920s many people including some experts in aeronautics and medicine dismissed manned space travel to the moon and beyond as simply impossible based on what they felt were clearly established engineering and physical restrictions and contravening factors. More recently, some stem cell authorities and medical consumer advocates have made pronouncements about what specific adult stem cells cannot do or facilitate which have later proved just plain wrong. Naturally one can't help but think this makes them the modern day equivalent of those individuals who confidently declared the prospect of men walking on the moon to be the stuff of science fiction but otherwise highly improbable if not impossible.

I realize, of course, some of these scientific experts were likely motivated to protect the public from getting hoodwinked and their pockets picked by unscrupulous stem cell operators who offered them (*ahem*) the moon and handed them squat. Others may have been quoted out-of-context by journalists.

Thankfully, I am seeing some concerned scientists and others in their orbit not only talking about an openness to explore what is being done at and reported by various private foreign stem cell treatment centers, but actually tackling the gathering of information gathering and then doing analyses that seem balanced on-the-whole.

One of these is ALSUntangled which is examining, analyzing and reporting on various, mostly highly web-visible "alternative" ALS treatment programs. They have already posted their findings on at least six treatments, most connected with specific clinical stem cell programs. Here is a link these reports: <http://www.alsuntangled.com/completedinvestigations.html>

What I especially like about ALSUntangled's handiwork is that their reports do not smack of the often mean-spirited and "jaded" writing I see on many prominent medical consumer web sites. Rather than vilify those doctors and clinics they find are offering treatments that produce little genuine improvements in ALS sufferers, they point out positives where they exist and lace their language with a diplomatic touch that I as a southerner appreciate and believe is vital to communicating issues and opinions to the public. One prime examine is their look at the work of internist Dr. Joe Hickey and his wife at *The Hickey Wellness Center* in South Carolina. Here is a link to this particular write-up:

<http://www.alsuntangled.com/pdf/Investigating-The-Hickey-Wellness-Center.pdf>

I'm sure ALSUntangled will eventually get around to looking at patients treated using their own stem cells processed by Nova Cells biochemist, Abel Pena. Of course, the experimental clinical use of stem cells processed using Abel's new method has just gotten underway and as such no one connected with it is anywhere close to being prepared to declare the improvements seen in the handful of ALS patients treated to-date as constituting rigorous scientific proof of efficacy. It will take at least several more years to see whether the promising developments seen so far pan out and hold up. It should be noted that all ALS patients who agree to do the required series of treatments are required to provide pre- and post- treatment results gleaned from [spirometry](#), [ALS Functional Rating Scale](#) and other standardized tests routinely used by researchers doing clinical studies on various experimental ALS treatments in the US.

A TOOL TO HELP PEOPLE AVOID SINKING THEIR HARD-EARNED MONEY INTO BOGUS OR WORTHLESS STEM CELL TREATMENTS



This article of mine is geared to equip people with the information, concepts and intellectual tools needed to critically think about the issues surrounding having an adult stem cell treatment outside the US: [Foreign Stem Cell Treatments: How to Avoid Being Scammed](#). The article includes links to all kinds of websites devoted to helping folks think critically.

ALS WEB RESOURCES



[ALS Untangled](#)

[Clinical studies: ALS and stem cells](#)

[World Federation of Neurology Research Group on Motor Neuron Diseases/ALS](#)

[Experimental regimen targeting the ependyma slows disease progression in four patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.](#) **NOTE:** High dose lithium carbonate use has bombed as an agent to slow ALS progression in several recently published clinical trials. This is part of my experimental regimen and, in light of these findings, is obviously in need of revision. However, it may turn out that expunging lithium altogether will prove a case of “throwing the baby out with the dirty diaper.” Instead, I feel that **low dose lithium** may be effective in slowing progression in various motor neuron diseases (Possibly only in a subset of patients possessing genetic variants of this insidious disease.) More grist for the research mill.

WANT MORE INFORMATION ON DR. STEENBLOCK AND/OR NOVA CELLS?

Sources of information on Dr. David Steenblock’s whole bone marrow transplant program and other clinical offerings:

www.strokedoctor.com

www.stemcell.md

www.davidsteenblock.com

www.cerebralpalsycure.com

To learn more about Nova Cells bench & clinical research-oriented work:

www.novacellsinstitute.com (You must register to access NC's information)

E-mail: NCinfodesk@gmail.com

Phone: 1-562-916-3410 (9 AM – 5 PM Pacific Time, M-F)

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