

PRESS RELEASE

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Welcome to the adult stem cell revolution

The national pro-life charity LIFE is calling for scientists in Britain to embrace adult stem cell research whilst praising the British scientists who made a paralysed man walk again.

The scientists from University College London transplanted adult stem cells from the paralysed man's nostrils into his spinal cord, enabling the re-growth of nerve cells and bridging a gap in his spine.

LIFE Spokesman Mark Bhagwandin said "The British scientists must be commended for a spectacular achievement in their treatment of Darek Fidyka, but their work is not exactly pioneering. Just over a decade ago Erica Nader who was paralysed after a car accident, in a pioneering treatment by scientists in Portugal, received adult stem cells also from her nostrils and was able to regain movement. The willingness of the British scientists to embrace and use adult stem cell therapy, responsible for some amazing medical successes around the world, is a most welcome development. Just earlier this month we heard of work being done by researchers at University of Southampton using adult stem cells to treat the most common cause of blindness and restore eyesight.

For too long money has been pumped into highly ineffective, failing and unethical research involving the destruction of human embryos in embryonic stem cell therapy. There is a dire need for investment in adult stem cell research which has for over a decade been achieving success and bringing hope to patients around the world. For Mr Fidyka's treatment to go ahead money had to be raised privately by a chef. We urge the Government, universities and funding bodies to invest heavily in this positive alternative to embryonic stem cell research. Had there been greater funding in the last ten years for this positive alternative to embryonic stem cell therapy, we would today have many more success stories like that of Mr Fidyka's to be proud of."

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