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Abortion

USA - Negative Psychological Impact of Abortion 'Hard-Wiring' in Women's Brains

"Women are hard-wired for relationships—and a woman's relationship to her baby is one of the most powerful of all. The hard-wiring of the brain may explain many women's disturbing post-abortion feelings," write Evelyn Vitz a Professor of French and Affiliated Professor of Comparative Literature at New York University, and Paul C. Vitz, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at New York University and Senior Scholar at the Institute for the Psychological Sciences. The authors found that "many of these women are in acute pain; some are almost totally incapacitated" by their post-abortion feelings. "What is particularly striking is that most of the women who have these powerful emotional reactions to their abortion are stunned by them. They were not opposed to abortion. They were blind-sided by their own reaction. One woman lamented—and thousands of others echo her mystified anguish—'If this was the right decision, why do I feel so terrible?' The authors conclude that "though a woman can decide rationally to have an abortion ... a terrible and shocking reaction sets in after their abortion. Often what lasts is not the relief or the power of the logical arguments. It is, rather, the failed, betrayed relationship between the woman and her fetus—now, in her mind, her dead baby—that has staying power." The authors call for a greater honesty from the medical profession toward women contemplating abortion. "Women need to be told the truth. They need to be prepared for what may be the consequences of this major life decision."

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2010/sep/10092105.html>

USA - Senate to Vote this Week on Allowing Abortion on Military Bases

The Senate will be voting on a Defense Authorization Bill this week that includes a provision that would allow abortions at military hospitals. Top conservative groups are warning that the FY2011 Defense Authorization bill, if passed, would "turn every U.S. military hospital in the world into an abortion clinic." "Military doctors did not want to perform abortions for the few short years this practice was legal during the Clinton Administration, and they don't want to now," wrote SBA List president Marjorie Dannenfelser. "In fact, before the law was overturned, they were about to hire outside doctors to perform abortions because no military doctors would participate." The amendment in question strikes a section of the U.S. Code, which has prohibited Department of Defense facilities from being used to perform abortions except in cases of rape, incest, and risk to the life of the mother. "[Department of Defense] medical facilities should remain focused on providing the best possible care for our military service members and their families, not providing abortion on demand," states a letter authored by Republican Congressman Todd Akin and Democratic Congressman Gene Taylor.

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2010/sep/10092010.html>

USA - Pro-life centre slated to be built next to Planned Parenthood

A group working to open a crisis pregnancy counseling centre next door to Planned Parenthood's Sioux City location expects to have a facility ready to receive clients sometime in January. It will be called Mary's Choice. Mary's Choice will offer free pregnancy testing, some ultrasound tests, counseling, educational opportunities and support for mothers and their babies during pregnancy and after giving birth. That could be anything from providing diapers and baby clothes to referrals

for adoption services. Locating right beside the Planned Parenthood facility gives girls and women in a crisis pregnancy a “visual alternative,” Jean Plourde, the founder and board president of Gabriel’s Corner, a similar facility in Iowa, on which Mary’s Choice is modeled said. The location beside Planned Parenthood would also provide opportunities for “sidewalk counselling.”
http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/news/local/a1/article_05771e7f-8886-5d1f-8a19-035ad3d96026.html

USA - New Research Shows Abortion Not Necessary for Pregnant Women with Cancer

New research on pregnant women diagnosed with breast cancer shows that such patients can benefit from cancer treatment without harming their babies. The study, reviewed at the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s Breast Cancer Symposium, challenges traditional medical advice that expecting mothers should terminate their pregnancies in order to receive life-saving cancer treatment. Pro Life Action League Executive Director Eric Scheidler said he is not surprised by the results. “I am very skeptical that there’s ever a reason for abortion,” he said. In regard to treating breast cancer, the author of the new study, Dr. Jennifer Litton of Anderson Cancer Centre at the University of Texas, said there is little risk to receiving cancer treatment while pregnant. Dismissing the premise that abortion is necessary when the mother’s life is in medical danger, Scheidler emphasized, “We need a broader prospective, a spiritual prospective.” Scheidler said he is encouraged by the study’s findings and hopes more women will value their unborn children.
<http://www.christianpost.com/article/20101005/new-research-makes-case-against-abortion-for-women-with-cancer/>

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Cloning

No news today

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Euthanasia

UK - BMA Scotland opposed to legalizing assisted suicide

The majority of doctors are steadfastly opposed to the legalization of assisted suicide in Scotland, the British Medical Association (BMA) Scotland has warned. The End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill, proposed by Margo MacDonald MSP, would allow the terminally ill and people who are “permanently physically incapacitated” to seek assistance in ending their lives. BMA Scotland’s stark warning was revealed as a Holyrood committee began to hear evidence on the controversial Bill from professional organizations.

<http://www.christian.org.uk/news/bma-scotland-opposed-to-legalising-assisted-suicide/>

UK - Disability group to protest assisted suicide bill

A disability campaign group is to protest against a Scottish assisted suicide bill, declaring that disabled people want assistance to live. Inclusion Scotland, is demonstrating outside the Scottish Parliament against the controversial End of Life Assistance (Scotland) Bill which is spearheaded by Margo MacDonald MSP. The group is set to give evidence tomorrow to the Holyrood committee which is considering the Bill. Pro-euthanasia organizations and pro-life group Care Not Killing Scotland are also set to give evidence.

<http://www.christian.org.uk/news/disability-group-to-protest-against-assisted-suicide-bill/>

Canada - Ad campaign for assisted suicide banned from airwaves

Opponents of assisted suicide have successfully lobbied to ban from Canadian airwaves a TV commercial promoting the right to choose death, and now they’re taking aim at the controversial messenger. Dr. Philip Nitschke, an Australian physician at the forefront of promoting doctor-assisted suicide in that country, planned an ad campaign in advance of presenting his “Safe Exit” workshops in Toronto, Vancouver and several U.S. cities next month.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/ad-campaign-for-assisted-suicide-banned-from-canadian-airwaves/article1727127/>

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Gambling

No news today

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HIV/AIDS & STIs

Canada - Neurological disorders afflict many HIV/AIDS patients

A study, published in the journal Neurology, identified 53 different brain-related conditions suffered by patients with HIV-AIDS, including severe nerve pain, seizures, dementia and stroke. "Even with new treatments, this is not a benign chronic disease," Christopher Power, a professor of neurology at both the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary, said in an interview. "Neurological disease is a major cause of disability and death for people with HIV-AIDS," he said. "The virus in the nervous system is a little different from the virus in the blood," he said. In particular, drugs can have trouble crossing the blood-brain barrier. Practically, that means that drug cocktails are not as effective at preventing neurological problems as they are at staving off other health woes associated with HIV-AIDS such as pneumonia. The most common neurological problems were distal sensory polyneuropathy, a painful disease of the nerves in the hands, feet and bowel, and HIV-associated neurocognitive disorder, a mild form of dementia.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/neurological-disorders-afflict-many-hiv-aids-patients-study-finds/article1730850/>

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Homosexuality

France - HIV rates 'out of control' among homosexual men

A study has shown rates of HIV in France are 200 times higher in homosexual men than among heterosexuals. Scientists from the French National Institute for Public Health Surveillance found that nearly half of the 7,000 people newly infected with HIV in the country in 2008 were homosexual men. Stephane le Vu, who led the research said HIV transmission "seems to be out of control" among men who have sex with men (MSM). Medical experts note that anal intercourse is, by its nature, one of the most risky forms of sexual activity. Sexual health specialists Dr John Dean and Dr David Delvin have warned that the practice carries a greater risk of spreading sexually transmitted infections than almost any other type of sexual activity. And the UK Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services will not accept blood donations from men who have had sex with men, regardless of whether they used a condom.

www.christian.org.uk/news/hiv-rates-out-of-control-among-gay-men-in-france

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In Vitro Fertilization

Israel - Children conceived through IVF are three times more likely to suffer autism

Children conceived through In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) are three times more likely to suffer from autism according to new research from Israel. Doctors at the Assaf Harofeh Medical Center near Tel Aviv, one of the country's leading academic hospitals, found that 10.5 percent of surveyed children diagnosed with a disorder on the autism spectrum were conceived using IVF - a significantly higher number than the 3.5% rate of autism in the general Israeli population.

<http://www.israel21c.org/201009288330/health/an-ivf-autism-link>

Sweden - Study Suggests Higher Cancer Rate among IVF Babies

Children conceived using in vitro fertilization have a higher risk of developing cancer than do children who were conceived naturally, new research shows. "We found a 50 percent increased risk for cancer in the IVF children, which means that if the risk without IVF is two per 1,000, it increases to three per 1,000 after IVF," explained study author Dr. Bengt Kallen, a professor emeritus in embryology at the Tornblad Institute at the University of Lund in Sweden. Using the Swedish Medical Birth Register, the researchers gathered information on almost 27,000 children who were born using IVF in Sweden from 1982 through to 2005. When they looked at the number of children who had cancer, they found that 53 children born from IVF had developed cancer compared to the expected rate of 38 cases of cancer in non-IVF children.

http://www.mentalhelp.net/poc/view_doc.php?type=news&id=129967&cn=28

Australia - IVF treatments risk gender imbalance

Australian researchers have proved for the first time that a particular type of IVF treatment increases the chance of having a boy to as much as 56.1 per cent. The research analyzed all 13,368 babies born through single-embryo-transfer procedures in Australia and New Zealand between 2002 and 2006. The University of New South Wales study, published in the International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, found that IVF treatment raised the sex ratio from 105 boys per 100 girls to 128 boys per 100 girls. Fertility treatments can influence the sex of an eventual baby to such an extent that increased uptake might throw the gender balance out of kilter, creating demographic problems such as a shortage of husbands or wives.

<http://healthland.time.com/2010/09/29/study-ivf-causes-higher-rates-of-baby-boys/>

Rome - Vatican Official Criticizes Nobel Prize for IVF Pioneer

A Vatican official and pro-life advocates have condemned the awarding of the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine to Dr. Robert Edwards, a pioneer of in vitro fertilization, whose work led to the birth of Louise Brown, the "first" IVF baby in 1978. Ignacio Carrasco de Paula, The head of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said, the decision to award the prize to Edwards is "completely out of order." Without Edwards' work, he pointed out, there would be no market for selling ova, or "freezers full of embryos waiting to be transferred to a uterus, or more likely, to be used for investigation or to die forgotten and abandoned by everyone." In the best of cases they are transferred into a uterus but most probably they will end up abandoned or dead, which is a problem for which the new Nobel Prize winner is responsible.

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/2010/oct/10100512.html>

Canada - Couple urges surrogate to abort Down syndrome baby

When a Canadian couple learned their surrogate mother was carrying a fetus that was likely to be born with Down syndrome, they demanded an abortion. The surrogate didn't want to abort the child, according to the National Post, and so the child's fate became about the surrogacy contract. According to the couple's agreement with the surrogate, if the surrogate birthed the child, the biological parents wouldn't have any legal responsibility for the child. But many legal experts are saying that if this situation had been brought to court the surrogacy contract would have been disregarded. Instead the court would draw from family law requiring the biological parents to support the child. It's hard to know what would have happened because a surrogacy contract has never been contested in a Canadian court, according to the National Post, and the surrogate in this case never filed a lawsuit and decided to have an abortion in the end.

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/sfmoms/detail?entry_id=74005

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Medical Ethics

USA - Government infected Guatemalans for STD tests

The United States revealed on Friday that the government conducted medical experiments in the 1940s in which doctors infected soldiers, prisoners and mental patients in Guatemala with syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases. The experiments involved about 1,500 men and women

who were unwittingly drafted into studies aimed at determining the effectiveness of penicillin. The tests, which were carried out between 1946 and 1948, infected subjects by bringing them prostitutes who were either already infected or purposefully infected by the researchers, and by using needles to open wounds that could be contaminated. The studies were sponsored by the Public Health Service, the National Institutes of Health, the Pan American Health Sanitary Bureau and the Guatemalan government. The goal was to assess whether taking penicillin right after sex would prevent sexually transmitted infections. Health officials decided to study men in Guatemala City's Central Penitentiary because its prisoners were allowed to have sex with prostitutes. NIH Director Francis S. Collins condemned the experiment and said strict prohibitions are in place to prevent such abuses from happening today. President Obama had been briefed about the revelations and called Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom to "personally express that apology," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/01/AR2010100107299_2.html

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Organ Trafficking

No news today

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Pedophilia

No news today

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Pornography

South Africa - Johannesburg Sexpo under scrutiny

Distributors of adult content at this year's Sexpo exhibition in Johannesburg must adhere to the laws governing the pornography industry, the Film and Publication Board (FPB) warned. Adults using the material must also make sure that children were not able to access adult-only magazines and DVDs, chief executive officer Yoliswa Makhasi said in a statement. The warning came after the East London Regional Court sentenced Paul Gama, an adult shop owner, to 32 months' imprisonment for contravening the Films and Publications Act. He was found guilty of distributing unclassified pornographic material, most of which failed to indicate the classification, age restriction and consumer advice on the outer cover as required by law. Makhasi said FPB representatives would attend the exhibition to make sure that they only distributed and sold material classified by the FPB as the legal authority responsible for classification, and that adults become more aware of the extreme risk it poses to children.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/back-page/joburg-sexpo-under-scrutiny-1.682480>

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Prostitution & Trafficking

South Africa - Arrest sex clients, not prostitutes

People who buy sex from prostitutes should be arrested and not the prostitutes themselves, is the recommendation of the ANC's gender committee. The call for action, discussed at the national general council in Durban, could place criminality of prostitution in an entirely different perspective. A study revealed that most women sell sex as a second option. "So instead of arresting a prostitute, clients should be arrested because buying sex is by choice, whereas selling it is not necessarily so", said the ANC Women's League president Angie Motshekga.

<http://www.sowetanlive.co.za/news/2010/09/23/arrest-sex-clients-not-sex-workers>

Nigeria - Thousands of Nigerian women 'found in Mali slave camps'

Nigerian girls are being forced to work as prostitutes in Mali "slave camps", say officials in Nigeria. The girls, many of them under age, have often been promised jobs in Europe but ended up in brothels, said the government's anti-trafficking agency. Nigeria's National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (Naptip) said officials visited Mali to follow up "horrendous reports" from victims, aid workers and clergy in Mali. They said there were hundreds of brothels, each housing up to 200 girls, run by Nigerian "madams" who force them to work against their will and take their earnings. Many of the brothels also had abortion clinics where fetuses were removed by traditional healers for use in rituals, said Mr. Simon Egede, Executive Secretary of Naptip. The BBC's Caroline Duffield in Lagos said the Edo State region of Nigeria in particular had become notorious for prostitution, with thousands of women and girls leaving every year to make money as sex workers.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-11438341>

Philippines - New queuing at airports to foil human trafficking

The Bureau of Immigration is set to implement a new queuing system at immigration counters in the country's airports to prevent collusion between immigration personnel and human trafficking syndicates. A test run of the S-Line was conducted at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. "The initial results are very encouraging. Our immigration officers have been very cooperative in the implementation of the new system, and we hope to adopt it in all our arrival and departure counters at the soonest possible time. The BI removed thousands of passengers from airlines on suspicion of being "tourist workers" and victims of human trafficking in the past two months. Tourist workers are Filipino travelers with tourist visas but who intend to work after arriving at their destinations, making them vulnerable to abuse because of their illegitimate work status. The Philippines has been placed by the US State Department in Tier 2 on the Human Trafficking Watch List. Should the country slide down to Tier 3, the US would withhold non-humanitarian aid of up to \$250 million for the Philippines.

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/news/breakingnews/view/20100930-295276/BI-to-implement-new-queuing-at-airports-to-foil-human-smuggling>

Namibia - Kazenambo's Prostitution Views Draws Fire from NGOs

A call by Youth and Sport Minister Kazenambo to have prostitution legalised to help boost job creation has drawn strong responses. The Women's Action for Development (WAD) expressed its "shock, utter disappointment and total rejection of the suggestion. It claimed "the call by the minister to legalise this evil in society has undermined and neutralised" what they have done. Veronica de Klerk from WAD said, should Kazenambo's wish be granted, it will dramatically increase general social decay in Namibian society and negatively impact on increased Government expenditure on various kinds of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV-AIDS, while increasing the already high number of 250 000 orphans and vulnerable children. WAD wants him to retract the statement and to admit that it was a misjudgment".

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201010060363.html>

South Africa - NPA educate public drivers to be aware of human trafficking

The National Prosecuting Authority on Sunday said public transport drivers are unknowingly ferrying human trafficking victims across borders. The NPA's Human Trafficking Program is launching an intensive awareness campaign this week. It aims to educate the public, as well as frontline government and law enforcement officials, on how to spot human trafficking. Project manager Nolwandle Qaba said many victims were brought into South Africa via public transport. "We are going out into ports of entries targeting your cross border truck drivers as well as cross border taxi drivers, because they might be unknowing facilitators for human traffickers using their transport," she said. Qaba said some public transport drivers were complicit. "The research has shown that sometimes the truck drivers and taxi drivers are knowingly transporting victims of human trafficking, but we don't have actual cases reported to the police and being brought to court for prosecution purposes," she added.

<http://www.eyewitnessnews.co.za/articleprog.aspx?id=49937>

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Stem Cells

USA - Researchers Convert Skin Cells into Liver Cells

According to a study by the Journal of Clinical Investigation, scientists from Cambridge's Institute for Medical Research collected skin cells from seven patients who suffer from inherited liver disease, and reprogrammed them, rejuvenating them into pluripotent stem cells, before triggering their conversion into liver cells. For the first time scientists were able to create human liver cells in a lab, opening the possibility for new treatments for liver diseases. "This is truly an amazing breakthrough," said Emerging Healthcare Solutions President Cindy Morrissey, "Not only will these liver cells produced in a laboratory allow new kinds of research to be carried out on inherited liver diseases, but the process by which the cells were created completely sidesteps the political debate over the use of embryonic stem cells." Stem cells harvested from human embryos have been believed to be more malleable and useful for medical research but the Cambridge research team claims the liver cells it created from skin are just as useful as any created using stem cells. "This study represents another step towards making stem cell treatments commonplace," Morrissey said. "Scientists are already experimenting with stem cells in order to one day repair or replace a variety of critical organs."

<http://www.benzinga.com/press-releases/10/09/b491040/ehsi-researchers-convert-skin-cells-into-liver-cells>

UK - Stem cells used to save woman's leg

Doctors have managed to save a woman's leg after it was broken in a hit-and-run crash, by repairing it with stem cells in a groundbreaking operation. Diane Stuttard had her lower left leg broken after being hit by a car while she walked home. Both the tibia and fibula were shattered and she faced having the leg amputated after 11 operations. She contacted Anan Shetty, a leading orthopaedic surgeon, after seeing a news report about him using stem cells to save the leg of a climber. During the operation, stem cells from her bone marrow were taken and mixed with a gel called Surgifill, which trapped the cells against the fracture. Within days they started to form healthy new bone, healing the break. Surgeons also lengthened her leg by cutting into a healthy section of bone, injecting the stem cell mix and using an orthopaedic scaffold to gently pull the bone apart at a rate of almost half an inch (1cm) a month. Although it is not the first time stem cells have been used in bone reconstruction, it is the first time the combination of stem cells, Surgifill and the leg lengthening technique has been used anywhere in the world.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/healthnews/8033218/Stem-cells-used-to-save-womans-leg.html>

USA - Healthy heart muscle glows brighter and brighter as stem cells develop

University of Central Florida researchers could repair and monitor damaged hearts without cutting into a patient's chest, with the use of glowing "firefly" stem cells. These stem cells, which are created with the same exact enzyme that makes fireflies glow, were engineered by Steven Ebert, an associate professor in UCF's College of Medicine. The study was funded by the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association. As the "firefly" stem cells develop into healthy heart muscle, they glow brighter and brighter, which allows researchers to watch and determine if the stem cells are working and where exactly they are. To do this, a special camera lens is used under a microscope to see the stem cells without ever having to cut into the patient's chest. According to Ebert, the next step in this type of research would be to use these stem cells in a disease model to observe how they heal a damaged heart, and determine what sort of environment would help these stem cells become most successful. The study, titled "Generation of Novel Reporter Stem Cells and Their Application for Molecular Imaging of Cardiac-Differentiated Stem Cells In-Vivo," can be found in this month's Stem Cell and Development Journal.

<http://www.dailytech.com/Damaged+Hearts+Repaired+With+Glowing+Firefly+Stem+Cells/article19754.htm>

USA - Cell technique works without embryos

Scientists have invented an efficient way to produce alternatives to human embryonic stem cells without destroying embryos, a long-sought step toward bypassing the moral morass surrounding one of the most promising fields in medicine. A team of researchers at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute in Boston has published a series of experiments showing that synthetic biological signals can quickly reprogram ordinary skin cells into entities that appear virtually identical to embryonic stem cells. Synthetic modified messenger RNA molecules encode the appropriate proteins but without integrating into the cell's DNA. Moreover, the same strategy can then turn those cells into ones that could be used for transplants. "This is very exciting to the research community," said Derrick J. Rossi of the Children's Hospital Boston, who led the research published in the journal *Stem Cell*. Opponents of human embryonic stem cell research seized on the development as the most convincing evidence yet that the morally questionable embryonic cells are unnecessary. "With each new study it becomes more and more implausible to claim that scientists must rely on destruction of human embryos to achieve rapid progress in regenerative medicine," said Richard M. Doerflinger of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/30/AR2010093007199.html>

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Substance Abuse

Finland - The world's toughest tobacco law

Finland banned selling and giving cigarettes to people under the age of 18, part of a drive to make the Nordic country smoke-free by 2040. According to the new law, anyone caught selling tobacco products to youth, will face fines and a maximum six-month sentence. The legislation also allows housing associations to ban smoking near children's play areas and on apartment balconies. 'We know we can never completely end smoking but several civic groups are working under the slogan 'Smoke-free Finland in 2040', said Ismo Tuominen, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Tobacco advertising has been banned in Finland for more than 30 years and in 1995 smoking was forbidden in workplaces, public buildings and on public transport, and was extended in 2007 to bars and restaurants. In 2012, cigarettes will be sold under the counter in stores and three years later cigarette vending machines will be banned.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D91IU2B83.htm>

Netherlands - Two Vodka's, too much

Two single vodka and orange drinks can slow reactions in seniors, researchers in the Netherlands and the United States suggest. Judith Hegeman led a team of researchers at Sint Maartenskliniek, who found just two drinks were enough to cause senior volunteers to struggle when walking through an obstacle avoidance test. The study, published in *BioMed Central Research Notes*, involved 13 healthy men and women -- average age 61.5 years. The researchers asked the volunteers to walk on a treadmill. Once they had attained a steady walking pace, a thin wooden block was placed at the far end of the belt and allowed to move toward the volunteer. Ingesting alcohol had an effect on how capable the study subjects were of stepping over the wooden block. "We found that alcohol levels, considered to be safe for driving, seriously hamper the ability to successfully avoid sudden obstacles in the travel path," Hegeman said. "A possible limitation of this study is the relatively small sample size, however even with the small number, it yielded an unequivocal outcome."

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-1314451/Why-giving-Gran-sherry-spell-trouble.html#ixzz10i6qL0nl>

Philippines - Doctors banned from smoking in Philippines

Doctors in the Philippines have been banned from smoking to make sure they set a good example to their patients. The order by the Philippine Medical Association will also ensure that other people are not affected by a doctor's second-hand smoke, association president Oscar Tinio said in a statement. "Physicians must be role models on matters of health, whose lives, decorum and personality are highly respected or emulated by all sectors of society - that is why it

is highly inappropriate for physicians to be seen smoking," he said. Government statistics show that there are 17.3 million smokers in the Philippines, amounting to about 28% of the population aged 15 or older.

<http://www.health24.com/news/Smoking/1-1250,58575.asp>

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Surrogacy

No news today

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Traditional Healers

South Africa - Study takes on toxic traditional remedies

Poisonous traditional medicines containing toxic substances are increasing the burden on South Africa's already strained healthcare system. This is according to statistics on people who died after using traditional medicines. A study by Professor Willem du Plooy of the University of Limpopo's school of medicine, found that some remedies contained unacceptable levels of uranium and human body tissue. A study of traditional medicine poisoning cases treated at hospitals countrywide showed the death of 68 babies from 1998 to 2001 at Umtata General Hospital, 141 adults and infant deaths at Ga-Rankuwa Hospital from 1981 to 2000, and the death of 35 people - out of 103 poisoning cases - at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. In February of 1998 Doctors For Life made Oral submissions to the parliamentary committee on Traditional Healers and the Healthcare System. DFL called on all who were present not to support the idea of incorporating traditional healers just because they are part of a tradition, but to consider what is health-detrimental and what is truly health-promoting, and to decide accordingly. DFL argued that just because muthi-murders were traditionally part of some cultures, does not mean it should be encouraged and incorporated into a healthcare system, and that the same principle should apply to traditional medicines. DFL also believes that traditional medicines should be subjected to scientific scrutiny to prove their quality and efficacy, before they are allowed to be incorporated into our healthcare system.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/article686946.ece/Study-takes-on-toxic-traditional-remedies>

Uganda - Fake healers blamed for child sacrifice

Traditional healers and spiritual leaders in Butaleja district have blamed fake healers for child sacrifice in Uganda. Speaking during a meeting with police officers from the child and family protection unit at Nampologoma Hotel, Edirisa Lubalire, the chairperson of the Butaleja traditional healers association, said the fake healers had ruined the image of their trade. However, Abdallah Muyimah, a spiritual healer, said some traditional healers resort to human sacrifice after trying all herbal prescriptions on patients in vain. "Like any other business, the aim of this trade is to make profits. Because the traditional healer needs more money and does not want to admit failure, he will prescribe something more difficult for the patient; such as looking for a child to sacrifice in order to cure their illness," Muyima stressed.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/17/734035>

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