

Medical Center to receive fetal tissue from Seattle laboratory

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Health Sciences Center. There is no contact between the laboratory and the women donating the tissue.

Crouse said the Medical Center would continue to actively seek alternative tissue sources for the research, but so far no viable sources have been found. In response to the outcry

over the use of aborted fetal tissue in research, a group of citizens formed Nebraskans for Research to support medical and health research in the state.

The group's executive director, Sandy Goodman, said it is important that this research continue because of its potential benefits.

"None of that (the benefits) is going to matter if we become the

Kansas of the medical research world," Goodman said, referring to a neighboring state's decision to de-emphasize evolution in its public schools.

Blanchard said the distance between the Seattle laboratory and Omaha would not be a problem. He said the tissue will be sent packed in dry ice with an overnight delivery service.

Crouse said that once UNMC

starts receiving the tissue, it will take about a month to determine if it is suitable for the current research.

The University of Washington laboratory is funded by the National Institutes of Health and has provided tissue to scientists for nearly 40 years, Blanchard said.

The laboratory charges a \$100 processing fee to cover the

costs of obtaining and shipping the tissue regardless of the amount, Blanchard said. The tissue itself is free, and the lab provides tissue only to institutions approved by the National Institutes of Health.

"For us the choice was to provide this material or give in to those who say this should not take place," Blanchard said. "We certainly weren't willing to go

down that road."

Blanchard said the research being done at UNMC was considered "very exciting and fruitful" by scientists around the world.

"It's important work and we're happy to help that," Blanchard said. "Even though we know it will bring further unwelcome attention from extremist groups."

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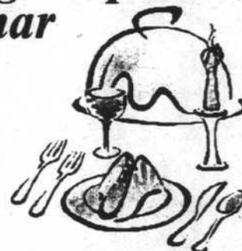
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