

[Name]
[Address]

August 2021

RE: Religious Exemption

To Whom It May Concern:

I am an individual in good standing with my local congregation, _____, and, as you know, I live or work in the New York City metro region. I personally hold to the Christian-theological and historically orthodox position of the protection of the unborn. This letter explains how I have been informed and directed through my religious study, which compels me to decline certain vaccines due to sincerely held religious beliefs.

It is my position that a person may be required to refuse a medical intervention, including a vaccination, as my conscience has come to a sure judgment and sincere belief concerning the origins of certain medical products. While I am not against the use of express vaccines, and I encourage the use of safe vaccines as a way of safeguarding personal and public health, I believe that there is a general moral duty to refuse the use of medical products, including certain vaccines that are researched, developed, or produced using human cell lines derived from abortions. This judgment about medical intervention should be respected as it is in accordance with generally held historical orthodox Christian perspective.¹

I believe that scriptures determines a hierarchy of moral order as derived by scripture and tradition, and accordingly, damage to the “little ones”² is an exceptionally grave sin. Further, I believe that a child in the womb is created by God and knit together by His providential hands,³ and that such child has the capacity to experience a litany of human emotions including but not limited to joy or pain.⁴

The use of derivative biological material from such a grievous act as abortion is sufficient grounds for the rejection of any and all vaccines created, researched, tested, developed, analyzed, or produced with such biological material. Here, the four primary COVID vaccines—currently available on the market (Exhibit A)—were developed using stem cell lines from the unborn (Exhibit B). Therefore, I have a religious obligation to rejection of the four currently available COVID vaccines.

¹“How are they dead unless they were first alive? But still in the womb an infant by necessary cruelty is killed ...” *De Anima* 25.5-6 **Tertullian**; “The woman who purposely destroys her unborn child is guilty of murder.” *Letters*, 188 **St Basil**; “You shall not slay a child by abortion” *Didache* or The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles; “Reputed believers began to resort to drugs for producing sterility and to gird themselves round, so as to expel what was conceived on account of their not wanting to have a child ... by a slave ... [or] for the sake of their family and excessive wealth. Behold, into how great impiety that lawless one has provided by inculcating adultery and murder at the same time.” *Refutation of all Heresies* **St Hippolytus**.

I believe the principle of religious exemption, which is rooted in the long-standing corpus of United States Constitutional law, should be applied here. Finally, I agree with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission’s position as related to religious belief: “[b]ecause the

definition of religion is broad and protects beliefs, observances, and practices with which the employer may be unfamiliar, the employer should ordinarily assume that an employee's request for religious accommodation is based on a sincerely held religious belief" (<https://www.eeoc.gov/laws/guidance/section-12-religious-discrimination#:~:q=954654327761610748655186>), and a religious accommodation, therefore, can be easily granted in my circumstances.

I respectfully request a religious exemption:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

²“But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” Matthew 18:6

³“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.” Psalm 139:13; “I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother’s belly.” Psalm 22:10

⁴“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.” Luke 1:4; “And the children struggled together within her; and she said, if it be so, why am I thus?” Genesis 25:22.

⁵ Romans 13:4

⁶This request may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which shall together constitute one and the same document.

EXHIBIT A

All data and links cited in footnotes. Text and information from Children of God for Life © 2021. <https://cogforlife.org/contact/>

Moderna

The Moderna vaccine is a messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine. Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is found naturally in cells. It transfers the instructions from the DNA code, the sequence of nucleic acids, to make the proteins. The mRNA vaccine instructs a patient's cells to produce proteins, in this case the spike protein found on the outer surface of the COVID-19 virus. This is the part of the virus that interacts with our immune cells. By stimulating the production of the spike protein, an *antigen* (antibody generator), the body builds up antibodies to it. Then if the body is infected with the whole COVID-19 virus, it is prepared to fight it. Moderna codes the vaccine as mRNA-1273.

How does an mRNA vaccine work? See Moderna's website.¹

Fetal cell line: The HEK293 cell line (info here)² originated from a healthy aborted child in the 1970s, age unknown.

Did Moderna use the HEK293 fetal cell line in research? Yes, they did in the research and development of the vaccine.

- In March 2020, researchers explained³ in *Science* journal that they expressed the 2019-nCoV spike in the prefusion conformation using HEK293 cells. That means they made the spike protein so they could study it, and they used HEK293 cells as the medium to express it in.
- In this preliminary report⁴ from July 2020, researchers explain in the supplementary appendix⁵ that ACE-2-overexpressing 293T cells were used in a neutralization assay⁶ to detect the presence of antibodies, a test to make sure the vaccine works as it should.
- This August 2020 preclinical trial report⁷ in *Nature* journal also explains that researchers transfected HEK293 cells to test expression. That means they added the vaccine in each step of development to the cells to see if they produced the protein as expected. This is the *in vitro* (in the lab) mRNA expression test.
- This U.S. patent⁸ for the *in vivo* (in the body) production of proteins explains a similar test, including testing the mRNA encapsulated in the lipid for delivery into the body. Again, they needed to see if the vaccine was stable and worked as expected.

Does Moderna use HEK293 fetal cell line in ongoing quality control testing during manufacturing? No, they answered that they do not.⁹

Also see: Measuring Moderna's COVID-19 Vaccine: Now's the Time to Press Hard for Ethical Options (National Catholic Register); Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine – Facts – Not Fiction¹⁰

Pfizer

¹ <https://www.modernatx.com/modernas-mrna-technology>

² <https://cogforlife.org/per-c6-hek-293/>

³ <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/367/6483/1260.full>

⁴ <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2022483>

⁵ https://www.nejm.org/doi/suppl/10.1056/NEJMoa2022483/suppl_file/nejmoa2022483_appendix.pdf

⁶ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/medicine-and-dentistry/virus-neutralization>

⁷ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2622-0>

⁸ <http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=%2Fmetahtml%2FPTO%2Fsrchnum.htm&r=1&f=G&l=50&s1=10,583,203.PN.&OS=PN/10,583,203&RS=PN/10,583,203>

⁹ <https://cogforlife.org/2021/03/04/moderna-does-not-use-hek-293-fetal-cell-line-in-ongoing-quality-control-or-lot-testing/>

¹⁰ <https://cogforlife.org/2020/11/16/moderna-covid-19-vaccine-facts-not-fiction/>

The Pfizer vaccine, developed in conjunction with BioNTech, is a messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine. Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is found naturally in cells. It transfers the instructions from the DNA code, the sequence of nucleic acids, to make the proteins. The mRNA vaccine instructs a patient's cells to produce proteins, in this case the spike protein found on the outer surface of the COVID-19 virus. This is the part of the virus that interacts with our immune cells. By stimulating the production of the spike protein, an *antigen* (antibody generator), the body builds up antibodies to it. Then if the body is infected with the whole COVID-19 virus, it is prepared to fight it. Pfizer/BioNTech codes the vaccine as BNT162b2.

How does an mRNA vaccine work? See Pfizer's website¹¹ for more information.

Fetal cell line: The HEK293 cell line (info here)¹² originated from a healthy aborted child in the 1970s, age unknown.

Did Pfizer/BioNTech use the HEK293 fetal cell line in research? Yes, they did in the research and development of the vaccine, similar to the way Moderna (above) did. They used the HEK293 cell line for testing the vaccine.

- In September 2020, researchers explained¹³ that they used HEK293 in a neutralization assay to detect the presence of antibodies, a test to make sure the vaccine works as it should, and they transfected HEK293 cells to test expression. That means they added the vaccine in each step of development to the cells to see if they produced the protein as expected. This is the *in vitro* (in the lab) mRNA expression test.
- This U.S. patent¹⁴ describes how they made RNA molecules encoding fusion proteins (like the spike protein) and tested them in development. They used a variety of cell lines, HEK293 among them, but do not specify which cell line they used for the COVID-19 vaccine. Again, they needed to see if the vaccine was stable and worked as expected.

Does Pfizer/BioNTech use HEK293 fetal cell line in ongoing quality control testing during manufacturing? We do not know.

Also see: COVID-19 Vaccine and HEK293: Testing and Production are Ethically Equal¹⁵

AstraZeneca

The AstraZeneca vaccine, developed in conjunction¹⁶ with Oxford University, is an adenovirus-vector-based vaccine, which encodes the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2. Adenoviral vectors¹⁷ are genetically engineered forms of the virus. AstraZeneca codes the vaccine as ChAdOx1 nCoV-19.

Fetal cell line: The HEK293 cell line (info here)¹⁸ originated from a healthy aborted child in the 1970s, age unknown.

Did AstraZeneca use the HEK293 fetal cell line in research? Yes, they did in the research and development of the vaccine, as explained in this scientific report¹⁹ from July 2020 in *Nature* journal. To propagate the virus in the HEK293 cells means to grow it in them. They will need to do this in ongoing manufacturing.

Does AstraZeneca use the HEK293 fetal cell line in manufacturing? Yes, see above, the viral vaccine is propagated (grown) in the cell line.

Johnson & Johnson

¹¹ https://www.pfizer.com/news/hot-topics/the_facts_about_pfizer_and_biontech_s_covid_19_vaccine

¹² <https://cogforlife.org/per-c6-hek-293/>

¹³ <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.08.280818v1.full.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://patft.uspto.gov/netacgi/nph-Parser?Sect1=PTO1&Sect2=HITOFF&d=PALL&p=1&u=%2Fnetacgi%2FPTO%2Fsrchnum.htm&r=1&f=G&l=50&s1=10,669,322.PN.&OS=PN/10,669,322&RS=PN/10,669,322>

¹⁵ <https://cogforlife.org/2021/01/07/covid-19-vaccine-hek293-testing-and-production-are-ethically-equal/>

¹⁶ <https://www.astrazeneca.com/content/astraz/media-centre/press-releases/2020/astrazeneca-and-oxford-university-announce-landmark-agreement-for-covid-19-vaccine.html>

¹⁷ <https://cen.acs.org/pharmaceuticals/vaccines/Adenoviral-vectors-new-COVID-19/98/i19>

¹⁸ <https://cogforlife.org/per-c6-hek-293/>

¹⁹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2608-y>

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, developed in conjunction with Janssen Research & Development, Inc.,²⁰ is an adenovirus-vector-based vaccine. Adenoviral vectors²¹ are genetically engineered forms of the virus. Johnson & Johnson explains the science behind their vaccine here.²² Johnson & Johnson codes the vaccine as Ad26.COV2.S.

Fetal cell line: AdVac® technology²³ uses **PER.C6®** cell line (info here)²⁴ originating from a healthy 18-week-old aborted child.

Did Johnson & Johnson use the PER.C6 fetal cell line in research and production? Yes, they did in the research and development of the vaccine, as explained in this scientific report²⁵ from July 2020 in *Nature* journal and in this scientific report²⁶ from September 2020 also in *Nature* journal. To propagate the virus in the PER.C6 cells means to grow it in them. They will need to do this in ongoing manufacturing.



EXHIBIT B

²⁰ <https://www.janssen.com/emea/emea/janssen-vaccine-technologies>

²¹ <https://cen.acs.org/pharmaceuticals/vaccines/Adenoviral-vectors-new-COVID-19/98/i19>

²² <https://www.jnj.com/our-company/simplifying-the-science-of-covid-19-how-adenovector-vaccines-work>

²³ <https://www.janssen.com/emea/emea/janssen-vaccine-technologies>

²⁴ <https://cogforlife.org/per-c6-hek-293/>

²⁵ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2607-z>

²⁶ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-1070-6#additional-information>

Below is the history of the cell lines PER C6 and HEK -293. These cell lines have been historically opposed by religious pro-life organizations. Data concerning the cell lines below. All data and links cited in footnotes. Text and information from Children of God for Life © 2021.

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PER C6 & HEK-293

HEK (human embryonic kidney) 293 – [is the] the number of aborted fetal experiments prior to establishing the cell line. HEK 293 is used to deliver the lentivirus gene in Dr Yamanaka’s adult skin cell reprogramming, as a cell line and reagent for testing many research products and in the drug Xigris. But one would never know by looking at the package insert. In order to obtain the truth, Children of God for Life filed a Freedom of Information Act Request with the FDA.

A human cell line is used in the production of Xigris, as noted under FDA document, PC 3420 AMP, in the first paragraph, which states: *“Xigris is a recombinant form of human activated protein C. An established human cell line possessing the complementary DNA for the inactive human protein C zymogen secretes the protein into the fermentation medium.”*

About the 293 Cell Line

The protein C is produced in the HEK 293 aborted fetal cell line. 293 cells are available from the American Type Culture Collection. There are variants of the cell line that derive from the parent.

ATCC Number: CRL-1573 Price: \$167.00
Designation: 293 Depositors: F.L. Graham
Biosafety Level: 2 Shipped: frozen
Organism: Homo sapiens (human) Morphology: epithelial
Tissue: kidney; transformed with adenovirus 5 DNA

The 293 cell line is a permanent line of primary human embryonal kidney transformed by sheared human adenovirus type 5 (Ad 5)DNA. [RF32725]

The cells express the transforming gene of adenovirus 5. Although an earlier report suggested that the cells contained Adenovirus 5 DNA from both the right and left ends of the viral genome [RF32764], it is now clear that only left end sequences are present. [RF50113]

The cells express an unusual cell surface receptor for vitronectin composed of the integrin beta-1 subunit and the vitronectin receptor alpha-v subunit. [RF33793] Purified DNA from this line is available as ATCC 45504 (25 micrograms) and ATCC 45505 (100 micrograms).

The Ad5 insert was cloned and sequenced, and it was determined that a colinear segment from nts 1 to 4344 is integrated into chromosome 19 (19q13.2). [RF50113]

United States Patent 5,681,932
Grinnell October 28, 1997
Inventors: Grinnell; Brian W. (Indianapolis, IN)
Assignee: Eli Lilly and Company (Indianapolis, IN)

Application No.: 458372 Filed: June 2, 1995

1. The recombinant human protein C molecule produced by inserting a vector comprising the DNA encoding human protein C into an adenovirus-transformed host cell then culturing said host cell under growth conditions suitable for production of said recombinant human protein C.
 2. The recombinant human protein C molecule of claim 1 wherein the adenovirus-transformed host cell is selected from the group consisting of AV12 cells and human embryonic kidney 293 cells.
 3. The recombinant human protein C molecule of claim 2 wherein the adenovirus-transformed host cell is an AV12 cell.
 4. The recombinant human protein C molecule of claim 2 wherein the adenovirus transformed host cell is a human embryonic kidney 293 cell.
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About the 293 Abortion...

In the FDA report found at
https://wayback.archive-it.org/7993/20170404095417/https://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/01/transcripts/3750t1_01.pdf

Key statement...Page 81 lines 14-22: “So the Kidney material, the fetal kidney material was as follows. The kidney of the fetus was, with an unknown family history, was obtained in 1972 probably. The precise date is not known anymore. The fetus, as far as I can remember was completely normal. Nothing was wrong. The reasons for the abortion were unknown to me. I probably knew it at the time, but it got lost, all this information.”

About the PER C6 Abortion and cell lines....

https://wayback.archive-it.org/7993/20170404095417/https://www.fda.gov/ohrms/dockets/ac/01/transcripts/3750t1_01.pdf

Key excerpts from the above document: Dr. Van Der Eb, Crucel NV is speaking...

“So I isolated retina from a fetus, from a healthy fetus as far as could be seen, of 18 weeks old. There was nothing special with a family history or the pregnancy was completely normal up to the 18 weeks, and it turned out to be a socially indicated abortus – abortus provocatus, and that was simply because the woman wanted to get rid of the fetus.”

“The father was not known not to the hospital anymore, what was written down was unknown father, and that was, in fact, the reason why the abortion was requested.”

“There was permission, et cetera, and that was, however, was in 1985, ten years before this. This shows that the cells were isolated in October 1985, Laeiden University in my lab. At that time already '85, I should say the cells were frozen, stored in liquid nitrogen, and in 1995 one of these was thawed for the generation of the PER.C6 cells.

“And this is the final slide just showing you some comparisons between 293 and PER.C6. Again, I remind you that both cell lines were made in my lab for different reasons. The objective, as I indicated, is for 293—was basic research, and we have done many different transformation studies after that, not transformation studies, but gene expressions studies with human embryonic kidney cells in the years following that up to now, I would say.

“PER C6 was made JUST FOR PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING OF ADENOVIRUS VECTORS As to RCA free, PER.C6 are RCA Free. The history documentation of the cell line has been carried out completely for PER. C6 and was not done at that time for 293.

“And then pharmaceutical industry standards... I realize that this sounds a bit commercial, but PER C6 were made for that particular purpose.”

About the Cell Lines and Adenovirus (AD5) Safety issues...

