



New Book Shatters Myths about Abortion

Complications: Abortion's Impact on Women

Getting to the Truth Required Meticulous Research

Can you imagine combing through almost every single research study on abortion? That is exactly what researchers at the Institute, including a host of committed summer students, did for the last 8 years. Studies in seemingly unrelated fields such as infertility, prematurity, and intimate partner violence revealed links with abortion.



Kathy Matusiak

“This approach was necessary, since abortion results are often under-reported” notes Kathy Matusiak, Executive Director for the Institute. “No one in mainstream research wants to publish results that show how unhealthy abortion can be. They get tremendous pressure from their

peers, so sometimes they minimize their findings. But the truth is in their data, if you spend the time to examine it.”

The result: *Complications: Abortion's Impact on Women* covers more than 650 scientific articles and studies, in 21 diverse chapters in four major sections: The Big Picture, The Medical Impact, The Psychological and Social Impact, and women's voices.

Ms Matusiak notes that “it is really only thanks to our supporters over these last ten years that this book is a reality. Every doctor, teacher, counselor, minister, health policy maker, elected government official, nurse – and every woman who has experienced an abortion or might contemplate one – needs to read *Complications*.”

“Combing through studies in seemingly unrelated fields such as infertility, prematurity, and intimate partner violence revealed links with abortion.”

Complications: Abortion's Impact on Women

is now available in print and e-book, through the Institute
(call or email for your copy today: 416-256-0555; bioethics@deveber.org)
or through Amazon.com.



The Facts of the Abortion – Breast Cancer Link

Breast Surgeon: Most women not getting the truth about health risk

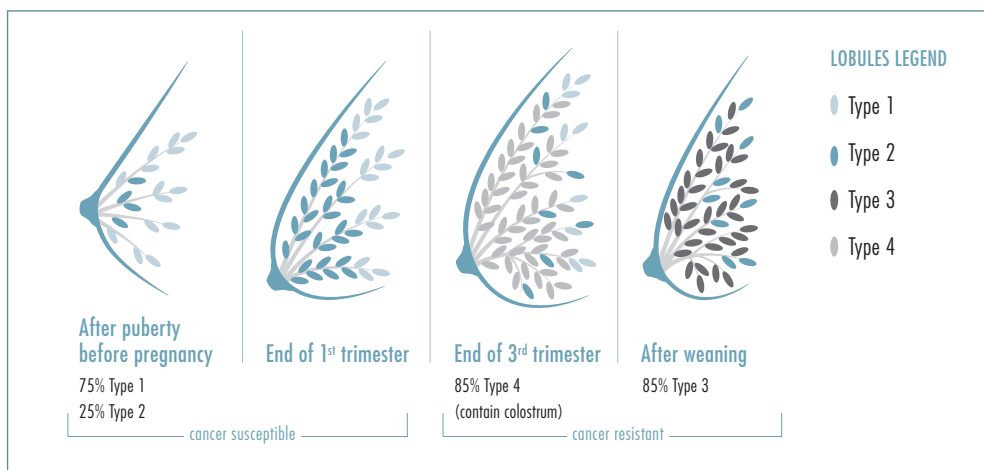


Dr. Angela Lanfranchi

Many women and their doctors have assumptions about abortion which are barriers to informed consent, according to award-winning breast surgeon Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, and one of the authors of *Complications: Abortion's Impact on Women*. Most notably, there is a generally accepted belief that abortion does not affect their health. For this reason, women are not getting the truth about abortion's risk to their health, meaning they are not truly able to give informed consent.

The main myth Dr. Lanfranchi explores in her presentations around North America is the belief that abortion is not a risk factor for breast cancer. In Chapter 7 in *Complications: Abortion's Impact on Women*, she outlines in careful biological detail why abortion would cause breast cancer, and explores the studies examining the abortion-breast cancer link.

Dr. Lanfranchi points out that most women who have an abortion will not get breast cancer, and most women with breast cancer have not had an abortion. Dr. Lanfranchi urges sensitivity and compassion when discussing this issue, because one never knows the situation that drove a woman to abortion, or what she may be experiencing about it now.



Dr. Lanfranchi's work shows a convincing case for concern about the abortion-breast cancer link, despite the controversial claims by health associations insisting the procedure is harmless.

The Link Between Abortion and Breast Cancer:

There are now 57 studies that show a positive association between abortion and breast cancer, of which 33 are statistically significant. There are also three meta analyses, of which two show the link. In 2007, an actuary found that abortion was the greatest predictor of breast cancer incidence in nine European countries.¹

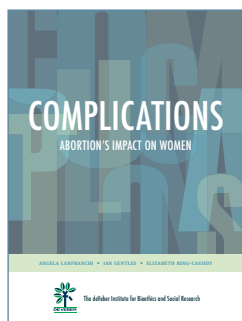
1. Carroll P. The breast cancer epidemic: modeling and forecasts based on abortion and other risk factors. *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*. 2007 September; 12(3): 72-8.

Here's what the statistics show:



Dr. Priscilla K. Coleman is a leading researcher in the field of abortion and mental health.

Her 2011 meta-analysis published in the British Journal of Psychiatry had some alarming findings and is featured in *Complications: Abortion's Impact on Women*.



The deVeber Institute has devoted a section of *Complications* to sharing the narratives of 101 post-abortive women.



These courageous women add credence to Coleman's findings in their own words:

Of the women surveyed for *Complications*:

37%

A 37% increased risk of depression

"I couldn't get out of bed and cried constantly."

"I felt dirty, empty, emotionally drained, brain dead, tired."

"[I] have suffered from long-term depression, suffered nightmares and flashbacks."

96% reported significant and ongoing depression as a consequence of their abortion

110%

A 110% increased risk of alcohol abuse

"I drank, smoked, did drugs and was more promiscuous after the abortion."

"I preferred alcohol as a preferred method of numbing the pain."

"I didn't think about it; I just drank."

40% used alcohol to avoid dealing with feelings of regret and depression

155%

A 155% increased risk of suicide behaviours

"I immediately spun into an eventual deep suicidal depression."

"I remember wishing and praying I would die."

"I attempted suicide eight or nine months later."

35% reported at least one suicide attempt linked directly to their psycho-emotional state after abortion

Women deserve to be informed of these risks.

Women deserve to be heard.

1. Coleman PK. Abortion and mental health: quantitative synthesis and analysis of research published 1995-2009. British Journal of Psychiatry 2011; 199(3): 180-6.

2. Angela Lanfranchi, Ian Gentles, Elizabeth Ring Cassidy, *Complications: Abortion's Impact on Women* (Toronto: The deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research, 2013), 301-65.

Autism: New Attitudes, Approaches and Assumptions

A small grant from Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) provided an opportunity to hear from autism experts, at a Café Scientifique Pub Night in Toronto. Some enlightening comments from the speakers which challenge pre-conceptions about autism:

Autism and human beings

“Individuals with autism are not defined by their autism, but by their humanness. The task for us – to understand that autism is just one more expression of the range of human development”

Dr. James Bebko, Registered Psychologist with a commitment to the field of autism

Cure for autism

“I think again when you talk about a ‘cure’ (it’s dangerous)... meaning you’re autistic, you need to be cured or you need to be prevented from being born – and you have to stay away from that. That’s a really dangerous assumption...”

Estee Klar, Founder and Director, Autism Acceptance Project

Help can start for babies as young as 12 months old

“If you intervene earlier, you can change the developmental trajectory of the child... Research shows shared positive effect means feeling good, and when kids are feeling good they are able to learn better.”

Dr. Jessica Brian, Autism Research Centre at Holland Bloorview



Ian Gentles
Research Director, The deVeber Institute

Ian Gentles was one of the original members to found the Institute when it was recognized that certain issues were not being given enough attention in mainstream research. Today, with the support of many people over the past 30 years, the Institute has published on many controversial but vital issues related to vulnerable people.

“I am leaving a bequest in my will for the Institute because I believe that honest, reliable research that supports the protection of innocent human life performs an important service to society.”



Lorraine Williams

We are grateful to the Williams Family for leaving the deVeber Institute a bequest in the name of Lorraine Williams. The Institute’s work was important to Lorraine during her lifetime, and will be part of her legacy.

We are sad to say good-bye to our long-time advisor and friend, Lorraine Mary Williams, who died peacefully this past summer. As her obituary states: “Her unbounded love of her family was but a reflection of her deep respect for the dignity and sanctity of all human life; which she constantly displayed in her love of and caring for people in a very personal way and as a professional social worker.” You will be missed, Lorraine.



The deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research
Founded in 1982

415 Oakdale Rd., Suite #215, Toronto, Ontario M3N 1W7

Tel. 416-256-0555 Fax. 416-256-0611 bioethics@deveber.org www.deveber.org

Co-Presidents

L.L. Barrie deVeber, MD, FRCP(C)
Martha Crean, BA, TESL

Vice President, Research Director

Ian Gentles, PhD, FRHS

Board of Directors

Keith Cassidy, PhD
Patricia Dolente Matijczyk, BA, MED
Deborah Zeni, MD, CCFP
Timothy M. Egan, LLB, BCL

Advisory Council

Michael De Robertis, PhD
Patricia Armstrong Egan, LLB, BCL
Barbara Farlow, BEngSci, MBA
David Mikulis, MD
Robert Nadeau, LLB
Nancy Olivieri, MD, FRCP(C)
D. Jean Echlin, RN, MScN
Tom Lynch, BA, MDiv, STL, STD (Cand)
Heather S. Morris, FRCOG, FRCS(C), LLD (HON)
David Novak, MHL, PhD

Paul Ranalli, MD, FRCP(C)
Paul Zeni, MD

Associates

Daniel Bader, MA, PhD
Bridget Campion, PhD
Lorraine McCallum, BaH
Paul McDougall, CMA
Elizabeth Ring-Cassidy, BA, MA
Elaine Zettel, BArts Sc

Executive Director

Kathy Matusiak, BSc

Charitable Business Number
11896 4915 RR 0001

Research Report

Design:
Philip Sung Design Associates Inc.