The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science.”

- Albert Einstein
GENETICS OF THE
ACADIAN PEOPLE

FREE PUBLIC FORUM
August 9, 1999 — 9 am until 4:30 pm
McNeese State University, Bulber Auditorium
Lake Charles, LA
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Community event organized by LSU Medical Center,
Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center,
Alzheimer's Gene Therapy Hailed

The first Alzheimer's patients to test pioneering gene therapy are proof of the treatment's promise, say doctors.

Between 2001 and 2002, surgeons at San Diego's University of California placed genetically modified tissue into the brains of eight Alzheimer's patients. It is designed to boost a naturally occurring protein that stops cell death and stimulates cell function. Now six patients are showing signs that the implants have successfully slowed their disease, Nature Medicine reports.

"If validated, this would represent a substantially more effective therapy than current treatments for Alzheimer's disease," said researcher Professor Mark Tuszynski.

The surgeons decided they were ready to begin trials in humans after getting promising results in primates.

In the animals, the therapy restored old, shrinking brain cells back to near-normal size and quantity, as well as connections essential for communication between the cells.
"I agree—the idea of cloning humans is disgusting."
Ethical Imperative

In research and clinical care, our actions should be guided not by what we can do, but rather what we should do.
Mark Hughes
Institute of Genetics; Wayne State University
“Concern for man himself and his fate must always form the chief interest of all technological endeavors … in order that the creations of our minds shall be a blessing and not a curse to mankind.”

- Albert Einstein