

The Mother and Child Connection
Special – Laura Grace Weldon
Pathways #41, page 6



Talking Points

- ❖ As a mother (and as a daughter, for that matter), Laura Grace Weldon will encourage your belief in the physical manifestation of connections with this article!
- ❖ Of course, cells transfer from the placenta to the infant during fetal development, but Weldon explains research that shows that cells from the developing fetus cross the placenta going the other direction as well. They are called fetal cells, and the “persist in a woman’s body into her old age...even if the baby she carried didn’t live to be born.”
- ❖ Fetal cells from the fetus contribute to the mother’s (or your) blood, bone marrow, skin, kidney and liver.
- ❖ These fetal cells even “appear to ‘treat’ her when she is ill or injured,” and may affect her autoimmunity (perhaps not always beneficially – research is only newly addressing these cellular exchanges).
- ❖ These fetal cells may provide protection from certain cancers, contributing stem cells, as well as new neurons in the mother’s brain.
- ❖ Fetal cells can be shared from one pregnancy to another, “meaning the cells of older siblings may float within younger siblings.”
- ❖ We heal our mothers and our children heal us.

Resources

Full references for each article are available at <http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/references.html>

Society for the Study of Reproduction. “Three types of fetal cells can migrate into maternal organs during pregnancy.” Science Daily, June 6, 2012.
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/06/120606155802.htm>

If you are interested in learning more about this process of *microchimerism*, you can find an additional list of resources at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microchimerism>

Stephanie Pritchard and Diana Bianchi. “Fetal Cell Microchimerism in the Maternal Heart – Baby Gives Back.” <http://circres.ahajournals.org/content/110/1/3.full>

Bruce Lipton and Sarah Kamrath discuss the important exchanges between a mother and a fetus in Pathways 32. “Happy Healthy Child: A Holistic Approach.” Winter 2011.
<http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/Children-s-Health-Wellness/happy-healthy-child-a-holistic-approach.html>