

New Medical Findings May Prove Jahi McMath's Doctors Wrong *Families Should Have the Right to Care for Loved Ones*

Contact: Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network, 484-278-4287; info@lifeandhope.com



PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 8, 2014 /-- Who has primacy in a life-or-death matter like that of Jahi McMath, whose family was told their child was "brain dead"? After suffering massive blood loss and cardiac arrest following tonsil surgery in December 2013, Jahi's parents were told there was no hope for her recovery. Her family, together with the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network and a team of professionals, appealed to have Jahi transferred after Children's Hospital Oakland declared Jahi to be dead, and refused to continue to care for her.

Now, almost 10 months after the death declaration, 13-year old Jahi is showing signs that may prove the hospital designation wrong. According to the family's attorney, Christopher Dolan, and physicians who have gone on court record, Jahi is showing signs of physical and neurological activity and improvement. In particular, Dr. Alan Shewmon, professor emeritus in neurology at UCLA, stated, "Based on the materials provided to me so far, I can assert unequivocally that Jahi currently does not fulfill the diagnostic criteria for brain death."

And then there is Dr. Calixto Machado, award winning neurologist for his research in the field, who stated, "It is my opinion, as one who is a defender of brain death, and who believes that brain death does occur, and can be confirmed through testing of the type conducted on Jahi McMath, that this patient does not actually fulfill the brain death criteria and hence she is not brain dead." It is important to note that Dr. Machado examined the EEG of Jahi—without knowing whose test it was.

"These new medical findings showing Jahi's current brain activity call for her brain death diagnosis to be overturned," says Bobby Schindler, Executive Director of the Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network. "Each situation is unique, and in Jahi's case, clearly more time was needed before making that grave decision which jeopardized Jahi's future and impacted the lives of her family, her community and the nation. This is a critical turning point that challenges the integrity of the system to right a wrong, not only for Jahi, but for those families who find themselves in similar situations. We will continue to advocate for Jahi and her family throughout their journey, and for all families to assure that their medical rights are protected."

The Terri Schiavo Life & Hope Network, a 501(c)(3), was established by the family members of Terri Schiavo to defend the rights of the medically vulnerable. These rights include the protection from the removal of food and water (via a feeding tube) which has been redefined as medical treatment instead of basic and ordinary care. The Life & Hope Network has communicated with and supported more than 1,000 families, and has been involved in hundreds of cases since Terri's Death. To learn more about the work of the Life & Hope Network, please visit lifeandhope.com

