

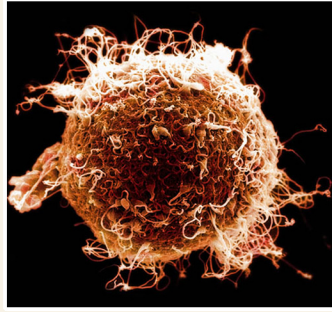
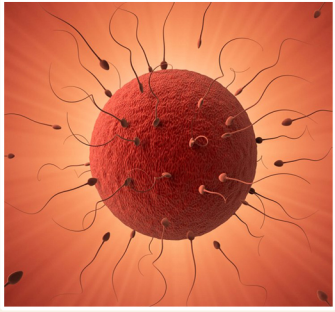
# When Does Life Begin?

*"It is incorrect to say that biological data cannot be decisive... It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception."*

Dr. Micheline M. Mathews-Roth

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## What do science text books tell us?



"Human development begins at fertilization when a sperm fuses with an oocyte (the woman's egg) to form a single cell, the zygote (term for an egg that is fertilized by a sperm). This highly specialized, totipotent cell (capable of giving rise to any cell type) marks the beginning of each of us as a unique individual."

Keith L. Moore, a world-renowned embryologist and author of the best selling textbook: *The Developing Human*.

"Although life is a continuous process, fertilization...is a critical landmark because, under ordinary circumstances, a new, genetically distinct human organism is formed when the chromosomes of a male and female pronuclei blend in the oocyte (female egg)."

Ronan R. O'Rahilly and Fabiola Mueller  
*Human, Embryology & Teratology*

"Development begins with fertilization, the process by which the male gamete, the sperm, and the female gamete, the oocyte, unite to give rise to a zygote."

Langman's Medical Embryology  
(T.W. Sadler, 11th edition, Philadelphia, PA:  
Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2006, p.13)

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## Physicians and genetics tell us life begins at conception.

The question on when life begins was put to rest in 1981 (April 23-24) when a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee held a hearing on the question of when human life begins. A group of Internationally renowned geneticists and biologists testified that life begins at conception. Here is what they had to say:

"I think we can now also say that the question of the beginning of life - when life begins - is no longer a question for theological or philosophical dispute. It is an established scientific fact. Theologians and philosophers may go on to debate the meaning of life or the purpose of life, but is an established fact that all life, including human life, begins at the moment of conception."

Dr. Hymie Gordon, Professor of Medical Genetics and physician at the prestigious Mayo Clinic

"To accept the fact that after fertilization has taken place a new human has come into being is no longer a matter of taste or opinion...it is plain experimental evidence. Each individual has a very neat beginning, at conception."

"Father of Modern Genetics" Dr. Jerome Lejeune

"The exact moment of the beginning of personhood and of the human body is at the moment of conception."

Dr. McCarthy de Mere, medical doctor and law professor, University of Tennessee

For more information visit our website [www.IllinoisRightToLife.org](http://www.IllinoisRightToLife.org) or call our office at 312-422-9300