

**LifeCell – Daily News Update**

**May 27 , 2009**

**Direct News:**

Publication	hinduonnet.com
Headline	<a href="#">First Menstrual blood bank promises easy source of stem cells</a>
Gist of the article	<p>For the first time, the country will have a menstrual blood bank which would be used for developing stem cells for treating various disorders. Scientists say menstrual blood discarded from the female body once a month, considered impure and unhygienic for a long time, is a rich source of stem cells.</p> <p>Chennai-based LifeCell International which brought cord blood banking to India plans to launch its new project "menstrual stem cell banking" in the month of July.</p> <p>"We are planning to launch the project in the month of July. It is a richer source of stem cell in comparison to bone marrow as it regenerates every month," Mayur Abhaya, Executive Director, LifeCell International said."</p> <p>Women can store their blood by paying a fee and this can be used when they need it for any treatment.</p> <p>Menstrual blood can be used to develop nine different types of cells including heart, nerve, lung, muscle, liver, pancreatic, fat, bone and nerve cells that form the lining inside the blood vessels.</p> <p>"It is a painless non-invasive manner as compared to some other stem cell sources such as bone marrow," Dr Ajit Kumar, chief scientific officer, LifeCell International said.</p> <p>They could be used to treat patients without the fear of tissue rejection, and they avoid the ethical questions associated with embryonic stem cells," Dr Kumar added.</p> <p>Disclosing the collection procedure he said, "The collection kit constitutes a silicon cup that can collect up to 30 ml blood. We need only 10 ml blood. This is like any other sanitary napkin or tampon and it can last up to eight hours." he said.</p> <p>LifeCell International has already roped gynecologists to spread awareness</p>

	<p>about this new bank and its facilities.</p> <p>"Already 50 gynecologist have used the kit to check its efficacy. Any woman interested to put int the bank her menstrual blood would consult her doctor first. That is why they hae been involved in this." Dr Kumar said.</p>
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**Key Industry News:**

Publication	innovations-report.de
Headline	<a href="#"><b>New stem cell research unlocks unknown therapies</b></a>
Gist of the article	<p>Stem cell research and regenerative medicine are in an extremely exciting phase right now. We are gaining knowledge very fast and many companies are being formed and are starting clinical trials in different areas," says Dr Jonas Frisén.</p> <p>As an example, a first-in-human study was just initiated for Parkinson's disease patients with the drug product, sNN0031, from the Swedish company NeuroNova. The drug, which is administered into the fluid-filled</p>

	<p>cavities of the brain, has shown long lasting recovery and formation of new cells in animal models of Parkinson's disease. Last year, a treatment for ALS entered the clinical trial phase.</p> <p>Disorders in the brain and nervous system result in more hospitalizations than any other disease group, and treatments entail large costs to society. The research field of neuroscience is one of Sweden's finest. This had resulted in achievements within numerous areas of basic science with considerable scope to direct clinical applications. These include research advances concerning the origin and repair of nerve cell damage following stroke and spinal cord injury, as well as research into major degenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.</p> <p>Dr Frisé is one of Sweden's leading stem cell researchers, since many years with a focus on nerve stem cells. Among his most recent publications is an article in Science, April 3rd, 2009 where evidence is shown for renewal of heart muscle cells in humans, a result that can be used to develop therapeutic strategies for cardiac pathologies.</p> <p>NeuroNova AB is a Swedish biopharmaceutical company working with neurogenesis and neuroprotection for treatment of several currently incurable neurodegenerative diseases. Dr Jonas Frisé is the scientific founder of NeuroNova.</p>
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Publication	theaustralian.news.com
Headline	<a href="#"><u>Stem cell grant seals the deal</u></a>
Gist of the article	<p>STEM cell scientist Andrew Laslett thinks of himself a "basic scientist" in that he wants to fully understand how stem cells work and, by doing so, make future stem cell therapies foolproof when it comes to safety.</p> <p>Dr Laslett's project to create a tool kit to screen for rare, potentially tumour-causing cells is one of four projects that have earned funding from a groundbreaking collaborative deal sealed last year between Victoria and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the single biggest source of stem cell research funding globally.</p> <p>Under the collaboration, each Victorian project has been awarded nearly \$US1 million (\$1.3 million) by the Victorian Government. But the added benefit is that each project is teamed with a Californian partner that has won richer backing from CIRM, allowing the Australians, through the joint projects, to leverage California's spending muscle.</p> <p>CIRM, headed by Australian in-vitro fertilisation and stem cell pioneer Alan Trounson, is expected to eventually announce similar international collaborative grants with Canada, Japan, Spain and Britain.</p>

	<p>The deal comes as the ASCC waits for the state Government to finalise by the end of next month its new business plan and so release remaining dedicated government research money out to 2011.</p> <p>The future of the ASCC has been in doubt since last year when a report criticised its governance, eventually prompting the resignation of the chief executive and board.</p> <p>But new chairman Graham Macdonald is optimistic the Government will back the new plan that will focus the ASCC on facilitating research rather than commercialising it.</p> <p>Embryonic stem cells can be programmed to develop into any specialised cell, offering something of a philosopher's stone for medical science. It offers the prospect of cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and the potential to heal injuries that cause blindness or paralysis. But in animal testing there have been rare instances of stem cells forming tumours.</p> <p>To better ensure therapies are safe, scientists need to find effective ways of identifying and eliminating those cells that don't respond to programming or won't stop growing when the job is done.</p> <p>"We don't know how safe it (stem cell therapy) is at the moment and we want to make it safer," Dr Laslett said. "There needs to be a really high barrier set for levels of safety, which is why stem cell scientists are always pushing for lots of government regulation of the industry."</p> <p>Dr Laslett's project with Scripps is to develop a test kit that will use antibodies to screen stem cell therapies. "The question we are going to look at in this grant is how many contaminant cells are a problem, how many can we detect and can we get rid of them," he said.</p>
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Publication	inventorspot.com
Headline	<a href="#"><u>Less Pain Equals More Gain With Adult Stem Cell Facelift!</u></a>
Gist of the article	<p>Work is underway at the Giampapa Institute for Anti-Aging Medical Therapy in Montclair, NJ to gain patent protection for a procedure that enables a knife-free facelift - injections with one's own adult stem cells. The patent application was filed last week by NeoStem, Inc. for the technology which integrates NeoStem's proprietary stem cell extraction process.</p> <p>Dr. Vincent C. Giampappa, a cosmetic surgeon and Assistant Clinical Professor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and a pioneer of the stem cell facelift, has been perfecting the stem cell lift for about four years. He also makes personalized skin creams from his patients' own stem cells. (Don't you love</p>

it that your body fat can be used for something worthwhile?)

Giampappa's stem cell facelift not only lifts, but reduces wrinkles, thereby reducing the need for costly and painful injections of facial fillers. Your own stem cells are separated from fat withdrawals, mostly from your lower abdominal area, and then only the stem cells are injected into facial areas. These stem cells encourage the skin to generate its own stem cells, so the results start immediately, and you get the benefits of a firm face and younger skin.

Giampappa's technique requires just local anesthetics, and it only takes about about a week for patients to face the world again with a bit of makeup. In this case less pain equals more gain!

The Institute for Anti-Aging Medical Therapy has also become a repository of adult stem cells from all sources (e.g., fat, bone marrow, etc.) for NeoStem, that can be banked and stored for later use in one's medical treatments -- bio-insurance. NeoStem is building its network of such stem cell storage units at U.S. medical facilities, and is embarking on international agreements as well. It has been active in assisting medical centers in experimentation of adult stem cell use for a variety of procedures, including assisting the U.S. Department of Defence in evaluating stem cell use to treat service wounds.