

General BioTechnology

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DEVICE ENHANCES STEM CELL TRANSPLANTS

Biotech company creates device that removes harmful preservatives from transplants

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 20, 2007 – Stem cell transplants are used to treat patients whose bone marrow and other blood cells have been negatively affected by cancer and other diseases. Because stem cells immediately ready for transplant are nearly impossible to obtain, any patient seeking to undergo a stem cell transplant must use cells that have been frozen, or cryopreserved. Unfortunately, the best way to currently freeze stem cells involves using dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), a potentially toxic solution that aides in cryopreservation. Typically, frozen-thawed stem cells are injected into the body along with DMSO, because there is not an effective way to remove the DMSO without losing a significant amount of stem cells or contaminating them. Unfortunately, the effects of DMSO on a patient range from fever and nausea to violent cramping and in rare cases death. The biotech company General BioTechnology LLC in Indianapolis, Indiana has developed a machine that filters out the DMSO from thawed stem cells and therefore lessens the negative affect of the preservative on the patient.

Following chemotherapy and radiation treatments, more and more cancer patients are seeking stem cell transplants as a method of recovery. If a patient's bone marrow stops producing new blood cells, a stem cell transplant can take over for the dysfunctional marrow and ideally regenerate growth of new blood cells. The side effects of DMSO have been deemed less than the life saving benefits of a transplant, but a growing concern has developed over the painful and potentially life threatening use of the compound. General BioTechnology LLC believes its device can change all this. Working with technology exclusively licensed from the University of Kentucky, General BioTechnology CEO Dr. Erik Woods developed a sophisticated cell washing process that results in a nearly complete recovery of unharmed stem cells.

Dr. Woods' device has the potential to be operational in any hospital or healthcare facility. The device will be easy to use and will arrive at a healthcare facility with everything a provider needs to use the machine. The dialysis process utilized by the device can also remove other, unwanted constituents and can concentrate cells all in a sterile, closed system, making it ideal for many current and future cell therapies.

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For more information about this topic or to schedule an interview with Dr. Woods, please contact Liz Bryant at 800-265-0945 ext. 103 or email at liz@gnrlbiotech.com.