

**LifeCell – Daily News Update**

**August 20 , 2009**

**Key Industry News:**

Publication	hindu.com
Headline	<a href="#">Public cord blood banking scores a century</a>
Gist of the article	<p>The Jeevan Stem Cell Bank based in Chennai has crossed a major milestone. It has collected 114 cord blood units for public banking. This has been achieved in about eight months since the Bank started collecting the units.</p> <p>Jeevan Stem Cell Bank, a unit of Jeevan Blood Bank and Research Centre, collects both private and public cord blood units. The number of units stored under private banking is 31.</p> <p>“We are hopeful of collecting 1,000 public cord blood units by April next year,” said Dr. Saranya Narayan, Medical Director of Jeevan Stem Cell Bank. “We are getting 2-3 units for public banking every day.”</p> <p>Contrary to common perception, about 80 per cent of donations to the public banking have come from families belonging to the middle and upper class. “They understand the value of public banking. And this is the proof,” Dr. Narayan said. “We ensure they are well informed that they would no longer have the right over their units once they are donated.”</p> <p>But Jeevan has a policy in place that will help the families to get the same units that were donated if they require them at a later date, provided they are still available. These units would be provided at a concession.</p> <p>According to her, the awareness among people about Jeeven Stem Cell Bank has increased over the last few months.</p> <p>The same is the case with doctors. “About 80 per cent of the units we get are through clinician referrals. And these are from small, medium and big hospitals,” she said.</p> <p>The proof that awareness has indeed increased comes from the 26 requests for HLA tissue matching. These requests were not just from within the country. One request came from France and another from Bahrain.</p> <p>Informed consent</p> <p>According to her, all the units are collected for public banking only with prior informed consent of the parents. “This is very important in the case of</p>

	<p>public banking as the units would be used by someone else or for research," she said.</p> <p>Though the Bank has set a 70:30 ratio for storing public and private units, the ratio is skewed towards public banking. This puts more pressure on the Bank to make more funds available for public banking. But this is good news for the larger interests of people. The more the number of units stored under public banking, the more the chances of finding a match for the needy.</p> <p>The concept of public cord blood banking is much favoured even by the American Academy of Paediatrics.</p> <p>In its recommendations in 2007, the Academy made a strong case for public cord blood banking. The Academy even went to the extent of clearly stating that storing cord blood for self-use or for use by a family member at a later date should be "discouraged."</p> <p>The chances of self-use when stored in private banks are slim — 1 in 1000 to 1 in 2,00,000 or less.</p>
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Publication	business-standard.com
Headline	<a href="#"><u>Cryo-Save to create cell lines at B'lore centre</u></a>
Gist of the article	<p>Cryo-Save India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Belgium-based stem cell storage bank Cryo-Save Group, is planning to develop cell lines (cells grown in tissue culture) at its stem cell banking facility in Bangalore, according to its managing director VR Chandramouli.</p> <p>"Our parent company has technology for creating 16 cell lines, including liver, heart and pancreas. Now we are planning to develop them at our Bangalore facility. At present, the Bangalore centre is involved only in cell differentiation. We expect the research and development (R&amp;D) work on the cell lines to start by mid-2010," he told Business Standard.</p> <p>Cryo-Save Group, a company listed on the London Stock Exchange, set up its India operations in December 2008. Its Bangalore centre, built at a cost of 2 million euro (about Rs 14 crore), has the capacity to store 300,000 samples.</p> <p>Chandramouli said the company was looking at bringing stem cell therapies to India, which at present are in the R&amp;D stage.</p> <p>"We have already tied up with the University of Florida for stem cell therapy for Type-I diabetics and with the University of Berlin for valve dysfunction in heart. The R&amp;D on these therapies may take four years from now and we will launch them in India much before the other third-world countries adopt them," he said.</p>

	<p>Cryo-Save India has arrangements with 150 hospitals for collection of cord blood, and it is on the verge of signing up six more hospitals for carrying out stem cell therapy trials, he added.</p> <p>Stating that about 25 million child births happen in India alone each year, an opportunity which companies like Cryo-Save cannot miss, Chandramouli said the company was asking its network hospitals to create awareness among pregnant women to save their baby's umbilical cords for stem cell research that can be used in curing medical problems of the entire family.</p> <p>"At present, Cryo-Save enjoys a 12 per cent share of the stem cell industry in India, which is pegged at Rs 120 crore. Our objective is to sustain this and get into the leadership position with a 25 per cent market share by 2010 or mid of 2011," Chandramouli said.</p>
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Publication	health.usnews.com
Headline	<a href="#"><u>Health Advice: Can Stem Cell Therapy Treat Pulmonary Hypertension?</u></a>
Gist of the article	<p>I'm a middle-aged woman who has pulmonary hypertension. My doctors want to put me on Flolan. But my husband and I have identified an established adult stem cell therapy program in the Dominican Republic in which my own blood would be used to provide stem cells, which would then be inserted into my lungs via a heart catheter. I have spoken to a patient who had the therapy for the same condition, and he is off oxygen and drugs and is back to work. Do you think this could be credible? My doctors seem to scoff at it.</p> <p>Roger Blumenthal, M.D.: Stem cell therapy holds promise for the treatment of almost all human diseases, from spinal cord injuries to damage caused by heart attacks. Stem cells are the cells in our body that have the potential to "grow up" to be any type of cell in the body. But organs are more than just collections of cells. They're highly organized collections of a multitude of cells.</p> <p>All treatments with stems cells are still experimental, and therefore the risks of this treatment are not completely understood. Clinical trials are monitored in the United States by academic and government agencies to help protect research subjects. We are not familiar with the safety measures in place to protect research subjects in the Dominican Republic, and I am unaware of a stem cell pulmonary hypertension protocol in the Dominican Republic. Information about research protocols from around the world and information on how to enroll in such a trial can be found at <a href="http://clinicaltrials.gov">http://clinicaltrials.gov</a>.</p>

Publication	wbztv.com
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Headline	<a href="#"><u>Stem Cell Therapy Doing Wonders For Dogs</u></a>
Gist of the article	<p>It could be a big breakthrough in treating aging dogs. Veterinarians are now using stem cell therapy, and the early results are pretty amazing.</p> <p>Watching 9-year-old Lola run might not seem like much to most of us, but for Lola's owner, Wendy Pun, it is nothing short of a miracle.</p> <p>Lola was practically paralyzed with debilitating arthritis in her hips. Before the procedure, Wendy says she had to "literally bring her water to her. I had to pick her up to bring her outside to the yard so she could use the bathroom. It was awful, awful."</p> <p>Wendy feared she might have to put Lola down, but then she heard of the stem cell therapy option.</p> <p>Dr. Sue Casale of Angell Animal Medical Care in Boston is certified to perform the procedure. She says the stem cells come from the dog's own fat, and they can be programmed to become other things in the body if they are put in a particular environment.</p> <p>"So if they are put in a joint, they can become cartilage cells," Dr. Casale said. "If they are put in your bone, they become bone."</p> <p>The dog must go thru a short operation to have a vial of fat harvested. It is then shipped to a special lab, Vet-Stem Inc., where it is processed into stem cells. It is then quickly flown back to the vet's office, where it is injected into the dog's joints.</p> <p>"It's a relatively simple procedure, compared to a major procedure like a total hip replacement.," says Dr. Scott Hufnagle, a veterinarian. "Recovery time is a lot quicker."</p> <p>Right now, the stem therapy is being used primarily to ease the pain of arthritis in the hips and elbows of dogs. Veterinarians are waiting for the results of long term studies, but so far, they're very encouraged by what they see.</p> <p>Dr. Casale says the potential for this approach could be enormous.</p> <p>"They are looking not just at arthritis, which is what we are treating," she said. "They are looking for it being used for liver disease, and heart disease, and things like that.</p> <p>"It is exciting to think of something like this because it really is very different than anything that we have seen in the past."</p> <p>Wendy couldn't be happier with the results she has seen in Lola.</p>

"Three weeks after the surgery she was able to walk and run around in the back

Yard," Wendy said. "It saved her life. I don't know what would have happened."

The entire procedure costs about \$2,500, and Vet-Stem claims a success rate of about 85 percent.

So far there hasn't been much controversy with this type of treatment because the dog's own stem cells are harvested, and then re-injected.