

LifeCell – Daily News Update

February 1, 2010

Key Industry News:

Publication	zeenews.com
Headline	Stem cell research could help eradicate cancer
Gist of the article	<p>British scientists have claimed to have developed a new method of isolating cancer stem cells, a research that could pave the way for developing drugs that would target the roots of the cells driving the disease.</p> <p>The study, which appeared in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, involved better ways of using molecular markers to identify cancer stem cells and maintaining the cells in simple laboratory cultures.</p> <p>For the research, the team from Oxford University studied established bowel cancer cell lines instead of biopsy samples and found that the proportion of cancer stem cells within different bowel cancers varies widely, with aggressive tumours containing higher numbers, the Telegraph reported.</p> <p>"People have assumed that cancer stem cells made up a small proportion of the cells in a tumour, but it is becoming increasingly clear that this is not correct. The most aggressive tumours can have a majority of cells that are cancer stem cells," said Dr Trevor Yeung from the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine at the University.</p> <p>Stating that compared to other cells, cancer cells are more resistant to radiotherapy and chemotherapy, Yeung said, "Cancer stem cells that have not been eradicated by the treatments can lead to recurrence of the disease and drive the growth of a tumour.</p> <p>"If we could develop treatments that target these cells specifically, we would be able to eradicate cancer completely," he added.</p>