



PRESS RELEASE

Cell Cure Awarded Grant from IsrA.L.S

Jerusalem, 04 January 2007 – Cell Cure Neurosciences, Ltd today announced that it has been awarded a grant from the Israel A.L.S Association to develop new stem cell and gene manipulation technologies and to test them in an animal model of ALS. The research may one day allow neurologists to treat the deadly neurodegenerative disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) by transplanting neural cells into the spinal cords of ALS patients. The study will be carried out under the direction of Prof. Tamir Ben-Hur and Prof. Benjamin Reubinoff at the Hadassah University Hospital and will utilize neural precursor cells produced from human embryonic stem cells. IsrA.L.S is providing \$226,000 for the two year program. "We are the beginning of a medical revolution that has the potential to provide cures rather than just treatments for neurodegenerative diseases, such as ALS" noted Charles Irving, COO of Cell Cure. "We are delighted that the IsrA.L.S made this award to Cell Cure and has recognized the key role that biotech companies play in bringing research discoveries to the clinic."

Approximately 5,600 persons in the United States are annually diagnosed with ALS and about 150 in Israel. The cause of ALS is not understood in most patients. ALS attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, including motor neurons that direct muscle movement by relaying messages from the brain and spinal cord to the body's muscles. As these cells die, the brain can no longer initiate and control muscle movements. The hope of stem cell therapy is that the dying and missing neurons can be replaced by transplanting neural progenitor cells that will grow into new neurons and neuron-supporting cells, such as astrocytes. Among the stem cell sources of neural progenitor cells, human embryonic stem cells are considered to be the most powerful due to their ability to proliferate forever in the laboratory and upon receiving the proper commands to develop into one of the 220 different types of cells in the body. Furthermore, genetic manipulations of human embryonic stem cells can be used to produce neural progenitor cells that will secrete glial cell-line derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF), a naturally occurring protein that preserves motor neurons during development. The two fold approach of replacing lost motor neurons and protecting healthy neurons that haven't already been damaged by ALS seems to have the highest chance of success.



About Cell Cure Neurosciences

Cell Cure Neurosciences (www.hbl.co.il/cellcure) was established towards the end of 2005 as an Israeli subsidiary of ES Cell International Pte Ltd with a well defined mission to develop cell-therapy products for the cure of neurodegenerative disorders. The initial effort is to turn human embryonic stem cells into dopamine producing nerve-cells for the cure of Parkinson's disease and motor neurons for ALS. The company operates within the laboratory facilities of Hadassah University Hospital, with a cGMP facility included. With the recent investment made by Hadasit Bio-Holding Ltd and government grants tailored for stem-cell research, the highly qualified and dedicated team of Cell Cure expects to preserve an already attained leadership in the development of cures for disorders of the nervous system (e.g. ALS, Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis).

About the Israel A.L.S Foundation

IsrA.L.S. (www.israls.org), a non-profit organization was founded to promote research in Israel into the disease Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (A.L.S)

IsrALS was found 3 years ago by David Cohen, who was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), a terminal and incurable disorder that attacks the central nervous system, and is run by ALS patients and friends.. IsrALS focuses on Israeli scientists – and the belief that they are capable of finding a cure for ALS. A number of high profile senior researchers have accepted the challenge and the fund-raising initiatives to enable this research have begun. The "A.L.S. Project" aims to raise awareness about the disease among the public and the scientific community, raise money for research – and ultimately, find a cure.

www.israls.org 04-8252233