

Media Release
March 9 2004



Stroke and Huntington Disease Patent Applications

Living Cell Technologies Ltd (NSX LCT) announced that it has filed patent applications in the US that extends its intellectual property platform covering the transplantation of living cells for the treatment of stroke and Huntington's disease.

The patent applications describe the use of NeuroCell, a novel encapsulated cell product for the treatment of acute and chronic degenerative diseases of the Central Nervous System (CNS). The cell type, choroid plexus, is normally responsible for producing the fluids that surround and bathe the brain, as well as supplying the nurturing and protective factors found in that fluid. NeuroCell, when placed near damaged neural tissue, provides focused long-term delivery of these therapeutic factors to protect cells that would otherwise die.

In initial studies under a collaborative program involving Dr. Cesario Borlongan (Medical College of Georgia, US), Dr. Steve Skinner (LCT - New Zealand) and Dr. Dwaine Emerich (LCT - US), LCT's proprietary preparations of encapsulated choroid plexus demonstrated therapeutic effects in models of both acute and chronic neurodegenerative diseases such as stroke and Huntington's disease. A technical abstract describing these results in stroke models has been submitted to the American Society for Neural Transplantation & Repair for review.

"We are very excited about the therapeutic potential of LCT's choroid plexus product for helping currently untreatable diseases like Huntington's disease and stroke," said Professor John Court, Chairman of LCT's scientific panel. "It is not often that such dramatic results are obtained in rigorous models of both chronic and acute CNS diseases."

Huntington's Disease

Huntington's disease is caused by a genetic defect and has no cure. The defect leads to destruction of nerve cells in critical areas of the brain, resulting in severe physical, mental and emotional changes. Patients are typically only in their 40s when the debilitating symptoms start. More than 10 in every 100,000 people will suffer from Huntington's disease.

Stroke

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the majority of developed countries. Caused by an interruption of blood flow to the brain by a clot or broken blood vessel, there are currently no effective methods of treating the loss of function in patients once the "cascade" effects of cell death have begun.

Living Cell Technologies Limited

Living Cell Technologies Ltd is a small international biotech company currently listed on the Stock Exchange of Newcastle Limited and has demonstrated the ability to transplant living cells focusing on the replacement or repair of organs that have been damaged by trauma or disease. Over the past 16 years, LCT has enabled the therapeutic implantation of carefully cultured cell clusters coated with a protective capsule that allows the cells to avoid the immune system and functional integrate into the patient replacing cellular functionally lost in diseases such a diabetes. LCT is based in Adelaide Australia and has operations in Australia, New Zealand and the US.

"LCT recognizes the need to have a strong product pipeline," said Roger Coats, LCT's COO. "Establishing the intellectual property that protects NeuroCell represents significant added value for our shareholders." The Company will fast track the development of these treatments during 2004.

Contact: r.coats@lct.com.au