

NDRI Turns the Spotlight on Research

Focus on Key Questions for the Future of Islet Cell Transplantation, Progress in Rare Disease and Eye Disease Research

Awards go to trailblazers at an “Evening to Celebrate Research” hosted by the NDRI Society, December 4, 2006 at the Rittenhouse Hotel in Philadelphia, PA



Jose Oberholzer, M.D., Program Director, Islet Cell Transplantation, University of Illinois

Health (NIH) is recognized with an award. For commitment to a more complete understanding of the human eye and the processes that lead to disease and vision loss and for support of investigations in hundreds of extramural laboratories and clinics throughout the United States and intramural facilities at NIH, the NDRI award for

“To receive an award is always an honor, but it is even more of an honor to have been chosen by Lee Ducat to receive an award. Lee has been a tremendous force behind both the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and the NDRI. She knows just about everyone on this planet working in the field of diabetes research.”

—Jose Oberholzer, M.D.

Research is center stage at the NDRI Society Board of Trustee’s dinner in Philadelphia. In the wake of sobering reports from the Edmonton Protocol Clinical Trial led by NDRI Board Member James Shapiro, M.D. in Edmonton, Alberta, CN, the future of islet cell transplantation as a viable treatment for type 1 diabetes faces serious questions. At the forefront of today’s investigations into combating immune rejection and the development of new technologies to track islet survival and function is Ali Naji, M.D., Director of the Islet Transplantation Program funded by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) at the University of Pennsylvania. From the early days of islet cell transplantation research, Dr. Naji has led the effort toward successful transplantation in humans and has proven the feasibility of clinical islet transplantation in successful isografts. Scientist, surgeon and humanitarian, Dr. Naji receives the NDRI award for **“Outstanding Science.”**

Focusing on the potential of new ideas and approaches, NDRI presents the **“Excellence in Research Award”** to Jose Oberholzer, M.D., Program Director for Islet Cell Transplantation at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Dr. Oberholzer represents a new wave of investigators with new perspectives as to how to overcome the stumbling blocks that have slowed this still promising new therapy. Stephen Groft, Pharm.D., Director of the Office of Rare Diseases, NIH, also receives the award for **“Outstanding Science,”** for his longtime efforts in support of individuals and families who face the challenges of living with a rare disease. Dr. Groft’s vision and leadership have focused national attention on the need for better treatments to combat the close to 7,000 rare diseases that afflict one in every ten Americans. His partnership with NDRI led to the development and continued expansion of the rare disease initiative to bring human tissue resources to investigators.

It is indeed rare that an institute of the National Institutes of

“Outstanding Science”

goes to the National Eye Institute (NEI). Accepting the award on behalf of NEI is a longtime NDRI colleague and participating investigator, Peter Dudley, Ph.D., Program Director of Retinal Diseases at NEI.



Ali Naji, M.D., Director, Islet Transplantation Program, University of Pennsylvania

Ali Naji, M.D., Ph.D. Receives Outstanding Science Award 2006

The **“Outstanding Science Award”** goes to Ali Naji, M.D., Ph.D., scientist, humanitarian and transplant surgeon, whose work is at the core of what we know today about islet cell transplantation and islet cell autoimmunity. Throughout his career, Dr. Naji has aggressively pursued strategies to make islet cell transplantation a viable treatment for type 1 diabetes and to alleviate the suffering of millions of diabetics throughout the world. His work aims at the induction of immunological tolerance in transplanted patients, and an exciting avenue of investigation has led to the first successful technique for imaging islet grafts *in vivo* following transplantation.

Pioneering transplant research

His early investigations dating back to the 1970’s were the first to demonstrate the critical role of recurrent anti-beta cell autoimmunity as a basis for the failure of islet transplantation for treatment of type 1 diabetes mellitus. Dr. Naji is the J. William White Professor of Surgery and director of the JDRF-Penn Islet Transplantation Program and associate director of the Institute for Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. At Penn, he leads a comprehensive islet transplantation program focused on isolation of islets, transplantation, and imaging of islet cells *in vivo* with human patients.

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Genzyme Corporation Grants \$250,000 Over Five Years To Support Rare Disease Initiative



John McPherson, Ph.D., Senior Vice President,
Cell and Protein Research and Development,
Genzyme Corporation

Genzyme Corporation has put its money where its heart is, hoping to leverage support from like-minded corporations and individuals toward the creation of the NDRI National Rare Disease Biomaterials Resource (NRDBR). The proposed plan will expand on NDRI's successful rare disease pilot initiative to secure more human tissue resources for investigators in the field.

"We at Genzyme Corporation have been involved with and interested in treating patients with genetic and rare diseases since our inception," says John McPherson, Ph.D.,

Senior Vice President, Cell and Protein Research and Development. "Our initial contribution of \$50,000 will help NDRI get the ball rolling to secure additional funding needed to ensure the rare disease initiative's continued progress." Genzyme has pledged to contribute \$50,000 a year over the next five years to NDRI as agreed upon milestones are met to increase the supply of donated human tissues and donor DNA and cell lines for investigators studying rare diseases.

"Genzyme and NDRI have worked together for many years," he adds. "They have supplied human tissue for our tissue engineering initiatives around cartilage repair and cardiac cell therapy, and most recently in our development of a device to help patients with acute renal failure." Genzyme has also worked with NDRI in the context of both stem cell and islet cell research programs. "We have had a longstanding relationship with NDRI that has been very productive and very helpful."

For a number of years, Genzyme has been involved in research and product development for rare genetic diseases known as lysosomal storage disorders (LSDs), launching the first enzyme replacement therapy for Gaucher disease in 1991. Since then, the company has developed a recombinant version of the enzyme as a second generation treatment for Gaucher disease and introduced other treatments for Fabry disease, Mucopolysaccharidosis I (MPS I) and Pompe disease. "Additionally," he says, "we have invested over the years in gene therapy platforms for cystic fibrosis and are now also working on a treatment for patients with polycystic kidney disease."

"Investigators from both academic institutions and industry will gain a better understanding of the nature of these diseases and the specific pathophysiologies that are contributing to the mortality and morbidity associated with them. We are confident NDRI will put our seed money to good use."

—John McPherson, Ph.D.

As NDRI's efforts continue to broaden access to tissue resources for rare disease research, Dr. McPherson predicts, "Investigators from both academic institutions and industry will gain a better understanding of the nature of these diseases and the specific pathophysiologies that are contributing to the mortality and morbidity associated with them. We are confident NDRI will put our seed money to good use." ■

Jose Oberholzer, M.D., Receives Excellence in Research Award 2006 Says Islet Cell Transplantation Research Must Keep Moving Forward

"To receive an award is always an honor, but it is even more of an honor to have been chosen by Lee Ducat to receive an award," says Jose Oberholzer, M.D., Program Director for Cell Transplantation at the University of Illinois, Chicago. "Lee has been a tremendous force behind both the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and the NDRI. She knows just about everyone on this planet working in the field of diabetes research." Dr. Oberholzer is the recipient of NDRI's **"Excellence in Research Award"** for his contribution to "The Future of Islet Cell Transplantation."

Dr. Oberholzer's own research in islet cell biology and immunology and his skills as a hepatobiliary, pancreatic and transplant surgeon have placed him at the forefront in the field of islet cell transplantation. He was formerly the head of the Islet Transplant Program and Laboratory at the University of Geneva and the site principal investigator in the first multicenter trial of the "Edmonton Protocol" for islet transplantation led by the Immune Tolerance Network. He trained at both the University of Geneva and with Dr. Shapiro at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

More islet cells needed for transplant research

Dr. Oberholzer has been working with NDRI over the last year to isolate hundreds of thousands of pancreatic islet cells in the state-of-the-art "clean room" at the University of Illinois Medical Center. The islets are sent to NDRI's researchers doing islet cell transplant research and related studies all across the country.

"With looming funding cuts from NIH," he says, "the role of NDRI in supplying islets for transplantation research is critical. Right now, limited funds prevent us from providing islet cells through the NIH initiative to all those investigators who need them. NDRI offers investigators an alternative route to acquire them."

Islet cell transplantation must continue

Reports on the latest results of patients transplanted through the international trial of the "Edmonton Protocol" (N ENGL J MED 2006;355:1318-30) have forced discussions throughout the diabetes community on the future of islet cell transplantation as a therapy for type 1 diabetes. In Dr. Oberholzer's view there is no question that islet cell transplantation should continue as a mode of investigative therapy. "There are patients out there for whom there is a real indication that the treatment works," he says. "Continuing studies on rats and mice will never solve the puzzle of this disease."

What have we learned?

"Perhaps the most forceful message from Edmonton is that we need to find better means to either prevent transplanted cells from being rejected or to prevent a recurrence of disease," he says. One of the pieces of the puzzle points to the islet isolation technique itself. "The possibility of a successful trial hinges on knowing how to prepare the islets for transplantation." Islet isolation and preparation, he proposes, should be the province of a few centers who have demonstrated the requisite skills.

"At our center at the University of Illinois, we are very fortunate to have a team that knows how to produce those islets so our success rate for islet cell transplantation has been high," he says. By adding a new insulin sensitizer to the mix of anti-inflammatories and immune suppressant agents, the team has reduced the number of patients who require a second or third islet transplant. So far out of 10 patients transplanted, all have remained insulin independent, some at nearly two years. With the addition of the new drug, none of the last five patients transplanted has required more than one infusion of islet cells.

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—Jose Oberholzer, M.D.

Islet encapsulation shows promise

Another aspect of his work, which Dr. Oberholzer believes has been very much neglected by investigators, is islet cell encapsulation to prevent rejection. "Because industry-supported research is not transparent, for years investigators pursuing this line of inquiry have been making the same mistakes over and over again. We have formed an international collaboration to try to break this cycle," he explains. Dr. Oberholzer and his team are working with a number of groups including scientists at the Norwegian Institute of Technology and the University of Perugia in Italy to test new microencapsulating technologies. The islets are isolated in Dr. Oberholzer's center, shipped to European partners for encapsulation and then to Italy for transplantation. So far, three patients have been successfully transplanted with no immunosuppression and with full graft function at six months. "We are very excited about these preliminary results," he says. "Our next step is to achieve full insulin independence." ■



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NDRI Turns the Spotlight on Science

Award winners recognized at "An Evening to Celebrate Research"

NDRI's Outstanding Science Award 2006 to Stephen Groft, Pharm.D.
Director of the Office of Rare Diseases, National Institutes of Health

Ask his staff and they will tell you, there is no one more dedicated to finding the causes of and treatments for rare diseases than Dr. Stephen Groft. In his role as director of the Office of Rare Diseases (ORD) and previously throughout his career, Dr. Groft has worked diligently to stimulate and coordinate research on rare diseases and to broaden access to the human biomaterials needed to support this work. His efforts and his leadership reflect a strong commitment to the needs of some 25 million Americans who are afflicted with the unique and often devastating conditions classed as rare diseases for which there is often no cure.

A vision to conquer rare diseases

Dr. Groft's association with NDRI began in the late 1990's. He and NDRI President Lee Ducat collaborated on a pilot project to develop a centralized patient registry and human tissue resource for scientists interested in the study of rare diseases. Together, in 2003, they took the first step toward making that vision a reality by inviting scientists from around the world to attend a jointly sponsored, international conference, the first of its kind, on the "Genetics of Rare Disease – Window to Common Disorders," in Washington, D.C. On the heels of that highly successful forum, with support and guidance from ORD, NDRI launched the rare disease initiative.

"One of the greatest impediments to the development of new drugs and treatments for any disease, rare or common is a lack of available resources

"We at ORD are honored by NDRI's recognition of our efforts to facilitate the science of finding cures for the many rare diseases that bring devastating consequences to our fellow citizens, both children and adults. We look forward to continuing to work together in this important endeavor."

—Stephen Groft, Pharm.D.

to study both the disease and its response to treatment in the human model," Dr. Groft says. "Partnership between ORD and NDRI has not only helped raise awareness of this need, but has facilitated the transfer of donated human specimens in greater numbers to the laboratory. We at ORD are honored by NDRI's recognition of our efforts to facilitate the science

Rare disease research a top priority for NDRI

of finding cures for the many rare diseases that bring devastating consequences to our fellow citizens, both children and adults. We look forward to continuing to work together in this important endeavor."

NDRI together with a league of Voluntary Health Organizations has established "The NDRI National Rare Disease Alliance" to identify and stimulate the provision of human tissues for scientists conducting rare disease research. Among these are the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund, Inc.; the Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research; VHL (von Hippel-Lindau Disease) Family Alliance; and the Intracranial Hypertension Research Foundation. This collaboration has led to the establishment of a donor database of individuals and families who are available to donate blood for DNA extraction and cell line initiation for study by a growing database of investigators examining the genetic causes of rare diseases. "More sophisticated research techniques available in the last 15 to 20 years have led to an even greater need for tissue and DNA samples from patients with rare diseases," says Dr. Groft. "These resources will allow us to narrow our research focus to the genetic and molecular level to better understand the origins of a particular disease and eventually from that knowledge design a more effective treatment."

NDRI's network of some 200 tissue collection centers is working to secure "after-death" donations of diseased and normal tissues for rare disease research. In partnership with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, NDRI provides donor tissue from surgical procedures, retrieved when a cystic fibrosis patient receives a new lung transplant. The "explant" lung is being collected for NDRI from participating surgeons at centers performing these life-saving procedures. Post-mortem lung and bronchial specimens are also being

shipped to scientists through NDRI's national tissue collection network. Other ongoing initiatives including NDRI's stem cell program are assisting research studies in rare diseases.

Currently about 100 investigators have submitted tissue requests to NDRI for the study of some 120 different rare diseases. Most commonly requested tissues are going to support studies in cystic fibrosis, Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Friedreich's ataxia, Goodpasture syndrome, Kawasaki disease, limb-girdle

muscular dystrophy, myotonic muscular dystrophy, sarcoidosis, and sickle-cell anemia. Studies include the development of promising new treatments as well as new testing methods to diagnose and screen for those at risk. According to Dr. Groft, what we learn from the study of rare diseases could have much broader application. "Once researchers start looking at these rare disorders, they may find clues that will lead them to understand the causes of not only the rare diseases but also common diseases that have similar symptoms or pathology."

Background on Dr. Groft

From his early days as a commissioned officer with the United States Public Health Service working as a pharmacist with the Indiana Health Service through his appointment in 1986 as executive director of the National Commission on Orphan Diseases, in the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Groft has spent his entire career advocating for better treatments for those with specialized health care needs. Since 1989, he has served as director of NIH's Office of Rare Diseases (ORD), devoting particular attention to working with patient support groups in their efforts to stimulate research with their diseases. In 1991, as the first acting director, he established the Office of Alternative Medicine at the NIH, followed by an assignment as the executive director of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy.

"Steve has a tremendous talent to bring out the best in people and to facilitate accomplishments even in times of financial constraints. His leadership and his dedication have helped a unique group of patients who often feel very alone with their disease. NDRI's rare disease program under Lee's sponsorship and Steve's support is just one example."

—Henrietta Hyatt-Knorr

His colleague, Henrietta Hyatt-Knorr, Director, Policy and Program Planning and Analysis, at ORD has said, "Steve has a tremendous talent to bring out the best in people and to facilitate accomplishments even in times of financial constraints. His leadership and his dedication have helped a unique group of patients who often feel very alone with their disease. NDRI's rare disease program under Lee's sponsorship and Steve's support is just one example." ■



Stephen Groft, Pharm.D., Director, Office of Rare Diseases, National Institutes of Health



For information about obtaining cells, tissues and organs (including rare disease specimens, bone marrow, cord blood and stem cell derivatives), call NDRI at 800-222-6374 or visit our website at www.ndriresource.org

NDRI Turns the Spotlight on Science

Award winners recognized at "An Evening to Celebrate Research"

Outstanding Science Award 2006 to the National Eye Institute

The National Eye Institute (NEI) is at the center of medical research and education to preserve and restore healthy vision to Americans of



Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D., Director, National Eye Institute

all ages, everywhere. As much as 85 percent of the Institute's annual budget, approximately \$600 million a year, supports research and education projects. NEI currently funds some 1,600 research grants and training awards at approximately 250 institutions in this country and around the world and conducts laboratory and patient-oriented research at its facilities at NIH. Almost every major breakthrough in eye disease research has resulted with NEI

funding support. NEI is a worthy recipient of the NDRI **"Outstanding Science Award."**

Helping to prevent vision loss

It is estimated that as many as five million Americans are visually impaired, and as many as one million are legally blind. Retinal diseases in particular threaten vision from a diverse set of pathologies including age-related macular degeneration (AMD), glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy (DR), retinopathy of prematurity, retinitis pigmentosa, usher's syndrome, ocular albinism, retinal detachment, uveitis, cancer, cataract and optic nerve atrophy.

"If you want to study diseases of the human eye there is no good substitute for the real thing," says Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D., Director of NEI.

"Partnership with NDRI has opened up access to valuable eye specimens for a myriad of NEI-support research projects. I'm hopeful that we can continue to work together to explore new avenues that will broaden access to viable research models of diseases and age ranges rarely seen among our present donor population."

—Paul A. Sieving, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Sieving is a nationally recognized researcher and clinician known for his studies of the genetic basis of retinal degenerative diseases. "As our population continues to age, there is a growing need for eye tissue of all kinds, and particularly from people with age-related eye diseases," he adds.

"Partnership with NDRI has opened up access to valuable eye specimens for a myriad of NEI-support research projects. I'm hopeful that we can continue to work together to explore new avenues that will broaden access to viable research models of diseases and age ranges rarely seen among our present donor population."

"NDRI, as a central source of human tissue for vision research, has played a critical role in providing scientists with tissue necessary for studies on AMD and DR."

—Peter Dudley, Ph.D.

NEI supported researchers are making great strides in finding ways to treat, cure and even prevent these diseases. Investigators at four NEI supported laboratories have identified a common variation of a gene that accounts for 50 percent of AMD. Identification of this gene may lead to the possibility of developing tests one day to identify patients at risk and to develop treatments to stop the disease before it progresses. NEI is currently funding a clinical trial to test two new drugs to treat AMD.



Peter Dudley, Ph.D., Program Director of Retinal Diseases, National Eye Institute

According to Peter Dudley, Ph.D., Program Director of Retinal Diseases at NEI, "Age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy are uniquely human eye diseases requiring human tissue for scientific investigation. NDRI, as a central source of human tissue for vision research, has played a critical role in providing scientists with tissue necessary for studies on AMD and DR. Specifically, NDRI has had a major role in studies of cell-based therapeutic approaches to AMD."

In accepting the **"Outstanding Science Award,"** he stated, "I am honored to accept the award on behalf of NEI and the many investigators who have benefited from the services NDRI has provided over the last two decades. The long association between NEI and NDRI has enabled investigators to initiate new research projects as well as strengthen any on-going ones with the assurance that an important source of human eye tissue was available to them."

Diverse collection of supported studies

Since the early 1980's NDRI has worked to build networks to meet the growing demand for both healthy and diseased eye tissue for research. Each year, approximately 4,000 specimens are shipped to investigators around the country, at least half of whom are funded by NEI. After the cornea has been removed for transplant, remaining parts of the eye are recovered for investigators studying macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, cataracts, retinitis pigmentosa and a host of other eye problems and diseases. ■

Human Eyes For Research

The National Disease Research Interchange (NDRI), supported by the National Institutes of Health, provides a variety of normal and diseased human ocular tissues for research. Diseases include **glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy** and a variety of other common and rare diseases affecting the eye.

For more information, please visit our website at www.ndriresource.org or call our toll-free number: 800-222-6374



NDRI is a nationally recognized, non-profit organization, serving research scientists with a variety of human tissues, organs and derivatives.



NDRI Society

National Disease Research Interchange

Moves Forward to Secure the Future Board of Trustees Dinner kicks off fundraising

The NDRI Society is hosting “An Evening to Celebrate Research,” on December 4, 2006 in Philadelphia, to honor outstanding scientists and science, gathering together those interested in the future of scientific investigation. The NDRI Society was organized in 2005, to lay the foundation for NDRI’s future by building a \$10 million endowment. Possible cuts in NIH funding now loom large due to huge deficits, the war in Iraq and Hurricane Katrina. NDRI Society Chairman D. Walter Cohen, D.D.S, Chancellor Emeritus, Drexel University College of Medicine, says “We need to educate more people about the vital role that NDRI plays at the

core of literally hundreds of research studies throughout the country.” It is time to bring interested stakeholders to the table, he emphasizes. “We are looking for people to join the Society effort to ensure the future of hundreds of scientific studies dependent on NDRI for their research.”

Marlene B. Dubin, a member of the NDRI Society Board of Trustees, states, “NDRI helps make research happen on the diseases that we all fear the most from Alzheimer’s disease to diabetes to macular degeneration and more. Supporting NDRI is a win-win for everyone for it will enable medical research to move forward utilizing human biomaterials.”

The Society Board of Trustees meets regularly to strategize key target areas and drive fundraising efforts for NDRI. Key business leaders have joined the effort, and a top Philadelphia public relations firm, Tierney Communications, Inc., has signed on to crystallize a strategic

communications plan. According to Jay Minkoff, President and CEO of First Flavor, Inc., “We are here because we want to support the development of new science that is in sync with finding cures for human diseases.” Jane Firth of Firth Leadership Partners concurs. “I, myself, am a cancer survivor. I work on behalf of NDRI because NDRI makes possible the groundbreaking work that will deliver on the promise of cures and prevention from disease. We of the NDRI Society not only wish for good health for all, we are at work behind the scenes to help research make it happen.”

Bernard and Joan Spain, members of the Society’s “President’s Circle”, are enthusiastic about spreading the message. “NDRI is a best kept secret,” says Bernard Spain. “The organization is helping research all over the world at very little cost. The work NDRI supports is state-of-the-art. Some studies are new and others are close to breakthroughs. With recent budget cuts from the Federal Government, historically our largest contributor, we have to go to public to help assure that NDRI continues to support this important research.” ■

Jay Minkoff



“We are looking for people to join the Society effort to ensure the future of hundreds of scientific studies dependent on NDRI for their research.”

—NDRI Society Chairman
D. Walter Cohen, D.D.S, Chancellor Emeritus,
Drexel University College of Medicine

Rosalie Maggio, Jane Firth and Gerry Sills



Joan Spain, Bernard Spain and Marlene Dubin



“NDRI helps make research happen on the diseases that we all fear the most from Alzheimer’s disease to diabetes to macular degeneration and more. Supporting NDRI is a win-win for everyone for it will enable medical research to move forward utilizing human biomaterials.”



— Marlene B. Dubin

NDRI Turns the Spotlight on Science

Award winners recognized at "An Evening to Celebrate Research"

Ali Najj, M.D., Ph.D. Receives Outstanding Science Award 2006

Fighting rejection

Most recently, his group's efforts have focused on the role of B lymphocytes in the pathogenesis of type 1 diabetes and in demonstrating the requisite role of B lymphocytes as antigen presenting cells in the pathogenesis of islet inflammation and immunologic rejection in organ transplantation. He has demonstrated the efficacy of B lymphocyte targeting for the induction of islet allograft tolerance in diabetic non-human primates. Dr. Najj and his group plan to determine the clinical efficacy of B lymphocyte-directed immunotherapy in humans as part of the cooperative NIH sponsored islet transplantation consortium.

Imaging islets

Dr. Najj and his team are evaluating the capability of Positron Emission Tomography or PET scans to image transplanted islets from outside the body. Current methods (looking at serological markers, for example) are not sensitive enough to detect loss of islet cell function until the latter stages of graft rejection. With PET scan technology, doctors could potentially have a noninvasive means to evaluate early, and on a continuing basis, graft function and interventions to prolong graft survival. ■

NDRI News in Brief

Nationwide Teleconference on "Partners in Research" held.

Representatives from 29 participating OPO's joined NDRI in a nationwide teleconference on November 16, 2006, to discuss how to work together to ensure compliance with the new Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) standards. Under the theme of "Partners in Research," the group explored options that could lead to increased tissue donation for research. For audio tapes of the 90-minute teleconference, call Jeff Thomas at (800) 222-6374 ext. 239.

NDRI Develops Pan Cancer Tissue Microarray

The latest platform for high-throughput analysis of cancer tissue specimens will be available in early 2007 from NDRI. The new tissue microarray (TMA) will allow researchers to analyze the expression of genes from many different types of cancer specimens all on a single slide. A total of 478 cases are grouped in four tumor survey blocks along with a normal survey block of 126 tissue samples. Cancers include breast, ovarian, endometrial and miscellaneous gynecological tumors, pancreas, colorectal, stomach, lung, thyroid, parathyroid, neuroendocrine, adrenal cortex, lymphoma, thymus, sarcoma and other miscellaneous rare cancers and controls. NDRI has also developed a customized TMA for prostate cancer. For information or to purchase TMAs call Rose Fantasia at (800) 222-NDRI ext. 255.

Partner OPO's Honored, December 5, 2006

Two longstanding NDRI donor services partners will be honored for outstanding service and commitment to disease research. Awards recognizing Upstate New York Transplant Service (UNYTS), Buffalo and LifeNet of Virginia will be presented at the NDRI Board of Directors' meeting, in Philadelphia. UNYTS, an NDRI remote site has collaborated in a varied array of specialized tissue acquisitions, providing consistently high quality specimens. Accepting the award for Buffalo will be Susan Sullivan, Ph.D., Vice President of Tissue Services.



Kevin Myer



Susan Sullivan, Ph.D.

LifeNet of Virginia was among the first to partner with NDRI, sharing the vision that tissue donation is essential to the progress of disease research. LifeNet goes the extra mile to inform donor families about research projects that will benefit from their loved one's gift. "Donating for research is more than just an option," says Executive Director Kevin Myer. "It's an opportunity." Gary Walters, Director of Tissue Recovery and OPO Compliance, will accept the award for LifeNet. ■



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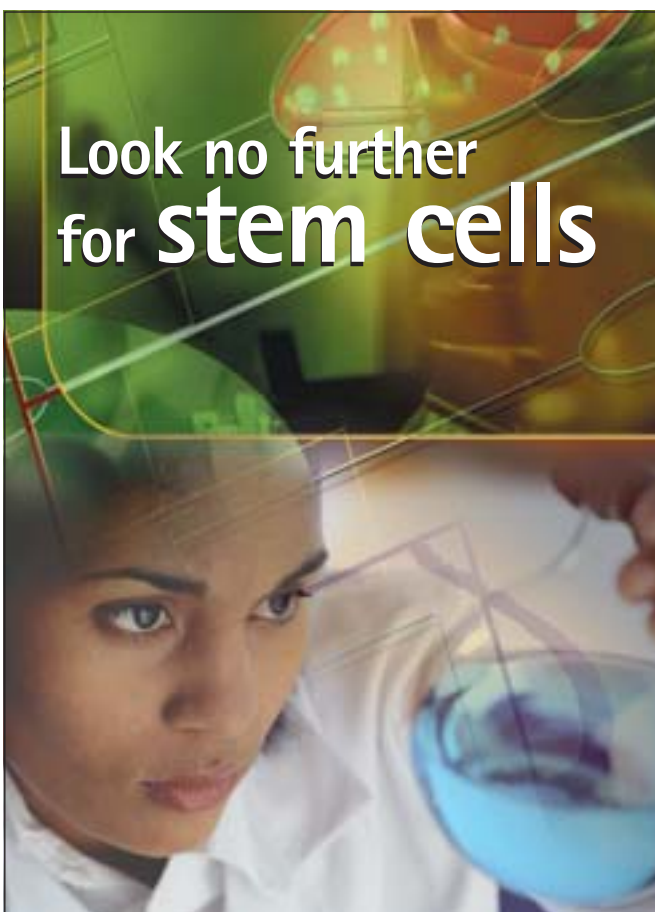
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