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Viable stem cells may now be manufactured - and cheaper

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October 3rd, 2010 - Step by step, Mankind is getting closer to longer life spans, and ultimately, immortality. Stem cells have shown promise with several applications which could ultimately re-grow organs and tissues of the human body. But up until now, harvesting stem cells was a costly, and time consuming endeavor. Hooray for life! It's even conceivable to imagine maybe our children, may never need to know death.

[Researcher Techung Lee, PhD](#), University of Buffalo associate professor of biochemistry and biomedical engineering in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, led a project within which scientists have succeeded in manufacturing viable stem cells in laboratory conditions. Clearing this incredible hurdle was one which now allows stem cells to not only be more readily available for research, but also less expensive.

Rather than the prospect of future stem cell therapies only being available to the super wealthy, now, there is a reasonable chance the "average person" may someday be able to afford such treatments, thanks to the development of what's commonly called mesenchymal stem cells. UB researchers simply use the acronym MSC-Universal.

The possibilities are really quite endless. Stem cells are believed to be the key to treating a wide range of diseases such as heart disease, cancer, paralysis, and possibly even the re-growing of limbs lost in various accidents. In the past, scientists faced the challenge of either harvesting stem cells on an as-needed basis, or that stem cells would sometimes cause cancerous tumors in organs they were applied to.

These newly modified stem cells functions differ from normal stem cells only in that they do not age, and they do not cause tumor growth in animal testing. While there are still bound to be complications surely somewhere along the line of furthering research, this still means humanity might yet make it out alive. There's also the added bonus of seeing results without injecting MSC-Universal directly into the organ being treated, but rather, simple injections into skeletal muscle.

Lee is not the lone wolf in this belief either. UB has already begun the patent application process to protect the discovery. The invention includes both a human and a porcine line of laboratory grown stem cells. But this isn't the end of the possibilities for applications. Dr Lee is also quoted as saying "I imagine that if these cells become routinely used in the future, one can generate a line from each ethnic group for each gender for people to choose from." What a great time to be alive.

Comments: 17

[Richard Regener](#) Oct 3, 2010, 3:37am EDT

I would not care to see this as a reality considering the possible repercussions of such a discovery.

[Donald Pennington](#) Oct 3, 2010, 3:47am EDT

Too late, Bubba! It's a reality and reported thusly, as of today! WOO-HOO!

[Donald Pennington](#) Oct 3, 2010, 3:52am EDT

you would rather people suffer needlessly, and die from treatable diseases? Is that because you are not aware of what the truth about stem cell research really is? Sad. If you hate life, get off of my friends list, please.

[Richard Regener](#) Oct 3, 2010, 4:08am EDT

On the contrary Donald I do admire the scientific progress and the potential benefits to humanity, however human nature being what it is I can also see the potential

misuses applied to such discoveries.

If you want to take me off your friends list for expressing my opinion than of course this is your choice.

[Donald Pennington](#) Oct 3, 2010, 1:37pm EDT

"Human nature" is an innately good thing, or else society could not exist. Those who promote the myths that people are somehow naturally bad (nature implies design) are the ones committing the evils that harm us. i.e., political, and religious "leaders," and other life-hating frauds.

You'd have to remove yourself. My intent is to expose people to concepts of objectivity, publicly, in the open, and with my real name attached to it. It's time the evil of our benevolent overlords is challenged and questioned.

[Richard Regener](#) Oct 3, 2010, 2:32pm EDT

That people are not born with evil intent Donald I totally agree with and mythology should certainly not be promoted as some sort of truth. What My original comment although inadequately expressed was only in response to a possibility that refers to defeating death because such a discovery would eventually lead to overpopulation, food shortages, starvation and all manner of other atrocities, which is already occurring in some parts of the world.

[Donald Pennington](#) Oct 4, 2010, 10:47pm EDT

Y'know what? I apologize. I initially took you for yet another guilt-ridden mystic. Ok. I'm an idiot. I confess.

Every scientific advance we ever make is met with such doubts. But somehow we manage. Snakes have fangs. Eagles have wings. Man has conscious, problem-solving thought.

[Richard Regener](#) Oct 5, 2010, 1:34am EDT

Don't sweat it Donald misunderstanding occur and that's all they and NO, you're not an idiot anymore than I am (smiling).

Although I greatly admire scientific achievements I do tend toward cautious acceptance and that stance comes from positive achievements having been misdirected by stupid people.

[Donald Pennington](#) Oct 3, 2010, 3:48am EDT

Remember this day in history kids! It is the day that helped death become, unnecessary!

[Donald Pennington](#) Oct 3, 2010, 3:50am EDT

I am not a scientist. I am only a cheerleader for science. Rah Rah! Siss-Boom-Ba!

[Donald Pennington](#) Oct 3, 2010, 3:50am EDT

do you like mah pom-poms?

[Megan J.](#) Oct 3, 2010, 4:18am EDT

We might be rejoicing too fast. Pharmaceuticals were not a panacea for the illnesses they prevented and treated; chances are stem cells will be the same. I love scientific progress as much as the next person (or maybe a little more... to this day i have only dated researchers, lol) but put in the hands of power-seeking people, ah, this too will be used for profit.

My advice for long, luscious life? Eat a healthy plant based diet, get plenty of exercise and let those you love know how much you love them every day. :)

[Donald Pennington](#) Oct 3, 2010, 10:42am EDT

There's nothing evil about profit. What does kill people is undeserved guilt, taxation, fraud, laziness, and dishonesty. Profit is a good thing. Were it not for profit, you

wouldn't have a computer to have typed that comment with. :D

[Megan J.](#) Oct 4, 2010, 12:57am EDT

True that, sir! I'm in the profit business myself. My question is, if you cure everyone completely, don't you end the profits? Isn't it just more lucrative to keep everyone just sick enough to need to buy stuff? That's the part that worries me!

[Donald Pennington](#) Oct 4, 2010, 10:47pm EDT

???

[Brad Bechler](#) Oct 3, 2010, 10:59am EDT

Paragraph three about the "super wealthy" is a great comparison to the "haves and have-nots". I'm glad you pointed that out. I don't understand what the argument is. Sometimes ethics gets in the way of saving a life. While we bicker over semantics and being politically correct, people are dying. Wonderful share, Donald. #swgather

[Donald Pennington](#) Oct 3, 2010, 11:44am EDT

I am quite humbled by a compliment from you. You're one of the best Gather has to offer.

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