Hard To Treat Diseases (HTDS) Targeted Cartilage Treatment Company Merger

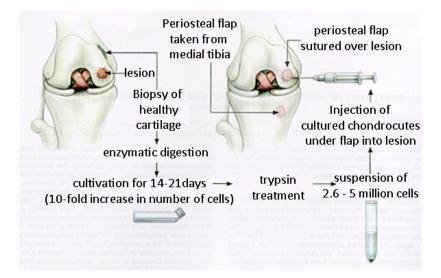
FILING - PINK SHEETS

Regenerative Medicine

Frankfurt Germany Nov. 24 - HTDS <u>www.htdsmedical.com</u> Hard to Treat Diseases, Inc. (HTDS) is providing this filing as information services update to its shareholders and followers regarding the companys **targeted cartilage treatment company merger.**

One of the most difficult surgical challenges facing orthopaedists has been trying to treat patients who have lost portions of the normal joint surface cartilage in their knees but are too young or too active for a total knee replacement. Treatment regimes in the past have focused on attempting to get a healing patch of fibrocartilage to "fill in" the defect, either by drilling the underlying bone with a series of honeycomb-like holes, abrading the bone with a burr, or microfracturing the crater with a special pick. Each of these treatments would cause a bleeding and subsequent healing response that would sometimes fill in the defect with a rubbery, firm coating somewhat like the original articular cartilage in appearance. Unfortunately this fibrocartilage has none of the biochemical or mechanical qualities of normal hyaline joint cartilage because it consists of primarily Type I collagen and typically will breakdown over time. It also doesn't have the wear, lubricating, or impact resistance capabilities of normal hyaline cartilage, which consists of Type II collagen. (for more information see: http://www.orthoassociates.com/).

Fortunately an exciting new surgical technique has recently been developed which has shown promising results in the battle against articular cartilage defects. In September 1997, the FDA approved the procedure for autologous chondrocyte implantation as marketed by Genzyme Tissue Repair (Cambridge, MA). The CarticelTM technique, based on the work of Swedish physician Dr. Lars Pederson, provides a safe commercial means of culturing and multiplying the patient's own articular cartilage cells in a slurry solution that is then reimplanted in the joint cartilage defect. What makes this procedure different from all the healing fibrocartilage techniques is that the live implanted cartilage cells produce a surrounding hyaline matrix which is biochemically similar to normal articular cartilage. This can provide relief of the pain, a return to active function, and presumably a lasting biologic repair. (for more information see: <u>http://www.carticel.com/patients/treatment.aspx</u>). Since then, a number of other protocols have emerged, with slight modifications to achieve higher increase in number of cells etc. There are several biotech companies in the world dealing with this technology.



Using arthroscopy, a specimen of healthy cartilage is taken from the unburdened articular surface of a patient who has damaged cartilage in the knee joint. This is followed by the isolation of chondrocytes and their in vitro cultivation under strict aseptic laboratory conditions. Once the cells have multiplied sufficiently (usually after 14 to 21 days), a graft (suspension of chondrocytes / chondrocytes on collagen based scaffold) is implanted into the lesion, under a "patch" of periost. Following rehabilitation, the joint regenerates completely. For more information on surgical procedure see: http://www.arthroscopy.com/sp08029.htm)

HTDS has two subsidiaries, Slavica Bio Chem Co and China Mellow Hope Inc. <u>www.mellowhope.com</u>. Slaivca's primary focus involves the enhancement and modification of existing approved drugs such as "Virazole" for the purpose of chemical repair of damage to the CNS (central nervous system), MS (Multiple Sclerosis), SARS, Hepatis C. Mellow Hope is China-based and is the biggest exporter of Biological Vaccines in China. It has a product line that encompasses vaccines for influenza, tetanus, diphtheria and other diseases; Blood based products including human rabies immunoglobulin; and active pharmaceutical ingredient (or APIs) for injection such as celestat in.

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CONTACT: For medical and scientific dialogue inquiry only, please contact <u>medicalinfo@htdsmedical.com</u>; For any corporate matters, please contact <u>www.minamargroup.com/helpdesk</u>