

NETCELLS PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2010

2010 brings much excitement with the attention of the world on South Africa as we prepare to host the FIFA World Cup Soccer.

This is a great time to be South African and Netcells is proud to be a South African company. We continue to invest in state-of-the-art technology equivalent to, if not better than leading stem cell storage companies all over the world. Netcells has stored over 2,700, cord blood stem cell units whilst Smart Cells has stored for over 18,000 babies.

Your child's stem cells remain safely stored with us.

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01 | LATEST STEM CELL DEVELOPMENTS

Global interest in cord blood banking and transplant activities is increasing significantly. Since the first cord blood transplant was performed 20 years ago, cord blood banks have stored close to 400,000 units and more than 20,000 cord blood transplants have been performed in children and adults.

In South Africa, we are aware of 13 cord blood transplants having taken place. These stem cells were all retrieved from international public cord blood banks.

Some cord blood units may contain a suboptimal quantity of stem cells to be used successfully. As this new age medicine continues to develop, **scientists**

can now expand the number of stem cells within one cord blood unit. This could significantly increase the use of cord blood stem cells, particularly since cord blood stem cells, unlike bone marrow, do not have to be a perfect match to the recipient.

Stem cell therapy for the **treatment of Cerebral Palsy** has been studied for almost 10 years and encouraging results have emerged from this work. At Duke University in North Carolina, USA, umbilical cord blood stem cells have been transplanted to assist in stimulating regeneration of damaged brain tissue.

To read more, please view the Press Articles on our website.



02 | EGG (OVUM) CRYO-PRESERVATION

Together with Medfem (one of South Africa's top fertility clinics) Netcells is pleased to announce the recent launch of egg (ovum) freezing.

This is a breakthrough technology that allows women to store their eggs until a pregnancy is desired, at which time the eggs are thawed, fertilized and transferred to the uterus as embryos – along similar lines to the well-known IVF procedure. Previously, women were only able to store fertilized eggs, meaning that they would have to find a sperm donor upfront.

This new Netcells service offers the hope of preserving fertility by storing healthy eggs at a young age for a large number of women, especially for:

- professional, career-oriented women who wish to delay childbirth until career demands and pressures are less;
- women who haven't yet found the right partner and want to delay childbirth;
- young women confronted with radiation and/or chemotherapy following the diagnosis of cancer;
- young women faced with the possibility of having their ovaries removed for medical reasons; and
- women suffering from endometriosis, premature ovarian failure or early menopause.



03 | SMART CELLS INTERNATIONAL

02

Netcells continues a strong collaborative partnership with Smart Cells International allowing us to offer storage of cord blood stem cells both locally and internationally. **In the unlikely event of Netcells ceasing to trade, Smart Cells will ensure the ongoing storage of your baby's stem cells.**

Smart Cells opened a **brand new state-of-the-art laboratory** in April last year. Their laboratory is situated near London Heathrow, ensuring that cord blood from South Africa reaches their laboratory the morning following the birth.

Smart Cells recently launched **Smart Cord**, a new service in which a portion of the umbilical cord is also collected. **The cord tissue contains a rich source of mesenchymal stem cells** that assists in building bone, cartilage and connective tissue as well as mediating the body's inflammatory response to damaged or injured cells. Mesenchymal stem cells are currently being researched for use in treating a wide range of conditions including heart disease, stroke, bone disease and injury, and autoimmune diseases (like type 1 diabetes and multiple sclerosis).

Smart Cells won the United Kingdom Department of Trade and Industry's Export Award for 2009.

04 | CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT

- ▷ At Netcells we recognize that we are so fortunate to be able to offer and store stem cells for privileged parents and consequently ensure that we share wherever we can with those who are less privileged:
- Considering that the primary therapies for stem cells are currently cancers, Netcells supports **CHOC (Childhood Cancer Foundation)** (www.choc.org.za).
- Netcells supports the work of the **Doulas** and the importance of Ubuntu - "giving back to the community" and to this end we provided baby clothing to go into the Christmas packs handed out to needy Moms at State Hospitals.
- Through the **Footprint Foundation** (www.footprintfoundation.com)

Netcells sponsored 21 children from Entokweni Crèche in KwaZulu Natal.

- Netcells provides, clothes, toys, books and stationery to **C.H.A.N.C.E Childrens' Home** (www.chancechildrenshome.co.za) in Springs, Gauteng, which provides a home to 90 children, most of them abandoned or previously abused.

We would like to appeal to all our parents to please consider donating any clothes, books or toys that your children no longer require. Netcells will happily make arrangements to collect any donations and deliver it to these charities.

Please contact us to arrange for collection.

05 | LOYAL AND RETURNING CLIENTS

Please remember that if you are storing with us for a **2nd time, you qualify for a R1,000 discount** off the Processing and Storage Fee. **3rd time clients qualify for a R2,000 discount.**

We have recently launched **"Register with a Friend"** so if you and a friend register together to store your baby's stem cells, you will each receive a **R1,000 discount.**

Only one discount allowed per baby.

06 | PHOTOGRAPHS

We love seeing photos of our stem cell babies, so please email them through to us to put up on our website.

Our very own Netcells' baby, James John Hulett was delivered by Dr van der Wat at Netcare Parklane Hospital on 21 August 2009.



07 | NETCELLS REPRESENTATIVES IN AFRICA

- ▷ We are looking for representatives in various African countries. If you know anyone residing in any African country who may be interested in being trained as a Netcells' Consultant, please get them to email us on info@netcells.co.za.

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