



NETCELLS PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

March 2012

01 | INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

aaBB Accredited

Netcells recently received formal international accreditation from the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) and is the only facility on the entire African continent to carry this prestigious accreditation.

Netcells Managing Director, Kim Hulett says: "This is an incredible validation of our operations. Accreditation was a non-negotiable for us, as it provides our clients with unequivocal assurance that stem cells processed by Netcells are in accordance with the highest quality standards ensuring that stem cells released by Netcells will be accepted by transplant centres around the world."

Accreditation follows two years of intensive assessment by AABB assessors. The AABB said that it welcomed Netcells to a distinguished group of accredited facilities around the world, especially with Netcells being the only accredited facility in Africa. The organisation added that its stringent programme assesses the quality and operational systems in place within a facility. The AABB programme is recognised by the International Society for Quality in Healthcare and the Code of Federal Regulations.

02 | ADULT STEM CELL BANKING

Time magazine recently listed stem cells from fat as one of the best 50 inventions over the last year. Netcells is one of the first banks in the world to offer adult stem cell banking from adipose (fat) tissue. The fat is retrieved by a mini-liposuction and sent to the Netcells laboratory for processing, culturing and cryogenic storage. Storage of these mesenchymal stem cells preserve a biological record of your cells age and can possibly be used later in life for treatment of various diseases.

Application of these stem cells is currently being tried by aesthetic doctors in South Africa to regenerate and improve skin condition (anti-ageing, scarring, wounds, uv damage, acne etc). The results have so far been encouraging. See www.redermis.com.

Last year, Joost van der Westhuizen underwent experimental stem cell treatment to assist him in his fight against Motor Neuron Disease. The mesenchymal stem cells were collected from his adipose (fat) tissue and these were processed in the Netcells laboratory and a therapeutic prepared which was administered back to Joost. To-date Joost has had 3 stem cell transplants and is doing well.

To make a difference in this world, Joost has set-up the J9 Foundation (www.joost.co.za). The aim of the Foundation is to bring awareness to the disease and to raise funds to help assist those other patients without the financial means. If you would like to donate R5 to this worthy cause, please sms "Joost" to 40535. If you would like to contribute more, please email quinton@joost.co.za.



Joost van der Westhuizen with the Netcells Tank in which his Mesenchymal stem cells are stored.



03 | BABY STEM CELL BANKING

Netcells has been processing umbilical cord stem cells since 2005 and to date we have over 5,000 babies that have stored their baby's stem cells with Netcells. Netcells stores both **cord blood** (which contains Haematopoietic stem cells used to treat blood related diseases) and umbilical **cord tissue** (which contains Mesenchymal stem cells used to regenerate muscle, bone, nerve and other connective tissues). There is a 1-in-4 chance that these stem cells may be used for siblings.

04 | CURRENT TRANSPLANTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

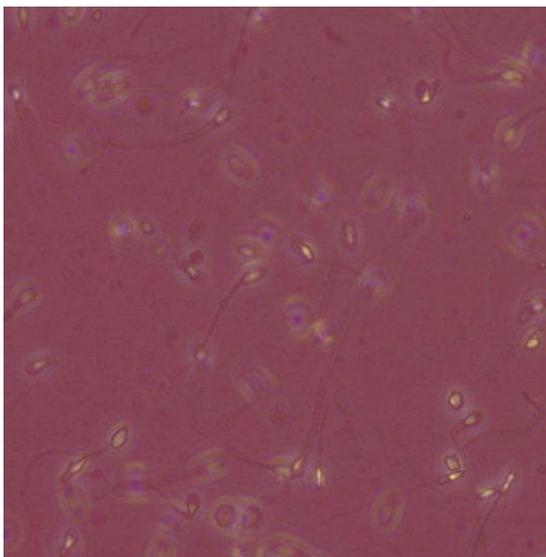
Stem cell transplantation continues to be a hot topic globally. To date, 15 transplants using umbilical cord blood have been done in South Africa for patients with bone marrow cancers and blood disorders. Netcells has stored stem cells for 3 state patients whose siblings require transplants. Over 50 patients who have stored their fat stem cells have already used them in therapy. Phase III Clinical Trials using mesenchymal stem cells to regenerate heart muscle are due to start later this year in South Africa.

Our academic institutions are showing more interest in stem cell therapies and as stem cell research begins yielding more positive results, stem cell transplants will be more routinely done.

05 | CHOC

In February 2012, Netcells donated a total amount of R62,953 to CHOC (Childhood Cancer Foundation SA). This money was raised by our Obstetricians foregoing their procedural fee for collecting umbilical cord blood and tissue stem cells for their patients in 2011.

This greatly needed donation will be used to contribute to the well-being and treatment of children with cancer and life threatening blood disorders in both the CHOC houses and the wards.



Sperm in the Netcells Laboratory

06 | REPRODUCTIVE BANKING

Netcells, in collaboration with fertility clinics in Johannesburg, has begun to offer long-term sperm storage. Reasons men should consider sperm cryopreservation are:

- When requiring or being involved with Assisted Reproductive Technologies
- Before undergoing any form of Chemo- or Radiation therapy
- Before prostate or testicular surgery
- Before having a vasectomy
- High risk occupations – men exposed to chemical, radiation, extreme heat etc. can become sterile.

Sperm cryopreservation and storage is for private use only and currently only available for sperm collection in the Johannesburg and Pretoria area.

07 | PHOTOGRAPHS

We would love to include photos of our special stem cell babies on our website. Please email photos to catherine.brazier@netcells.co.za.



The adorable, McKenzie Cross was delivered by Dr. Boris Jivkov at Netcare Park Lane on 12th March 2012.

08 | CONTACT DETAILS

It is very important that we continue to keep in touch with you, therefore if any of your contact details change please could you send us an email updating us with your latest contact details.