



دانشگاه علوم پزشکی
و خدمات بهداشتی درمانی تهران

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



پژوهشگاه علوم غدد و متابولیسم
دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تهران

Revolutionizing Endocrinology: The Latest Breakthroughs in Cell Therapy

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Endocrinology & Metabolism Research Center

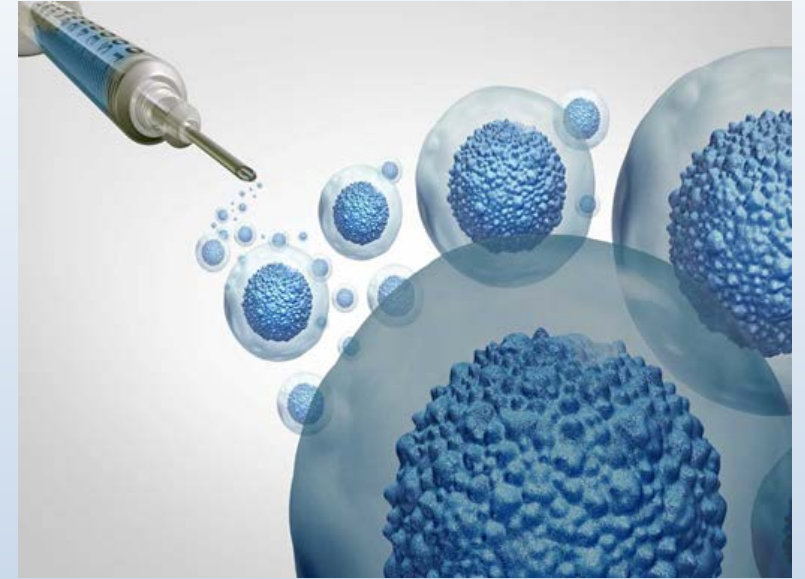
Endocrinology & Metabolism Research Institute Tehran

University of Medical Sciences

22 November 2023

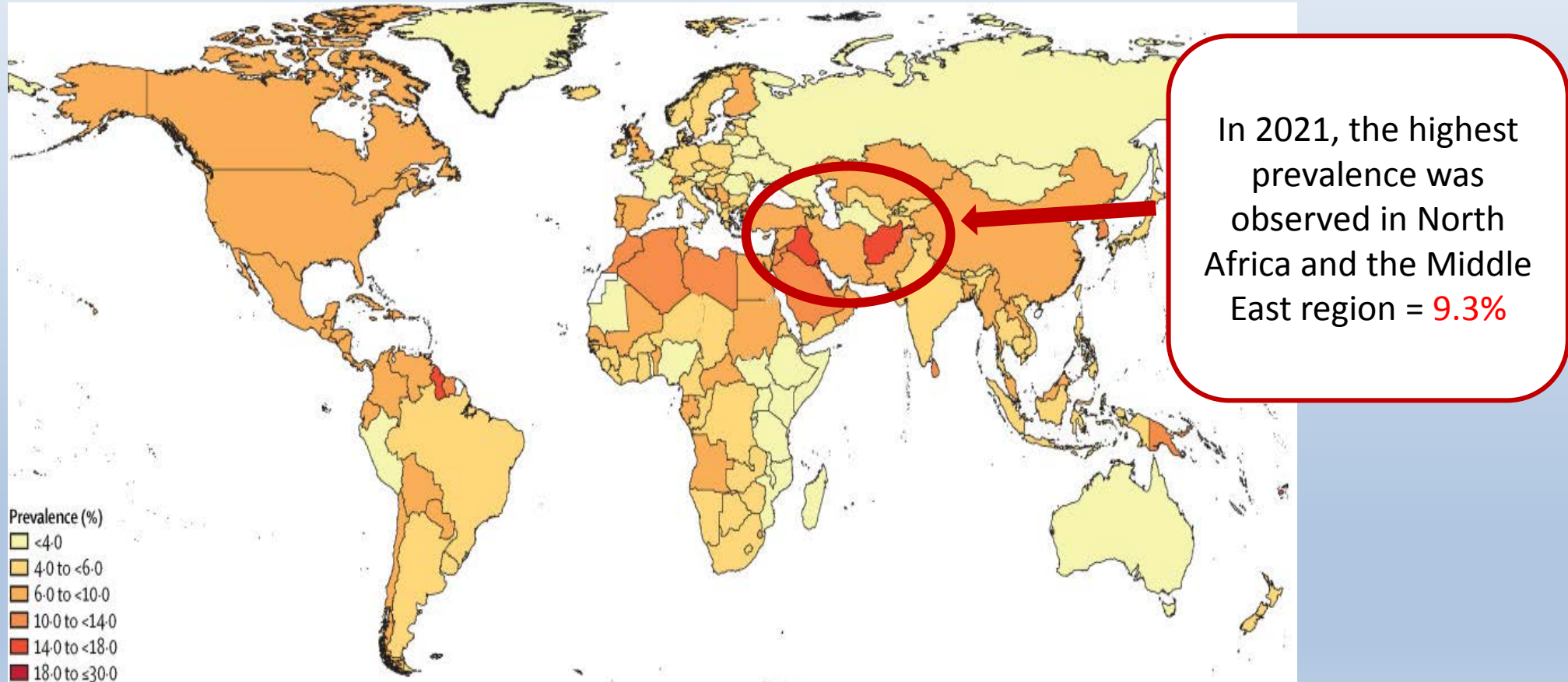
Outline

- A brief review of regenerative medicine
- New achievements in diabetes cell-based therapies
- Cell-based therapies in osteoporosis
- Our works & experiences in field of regenerative therapies for diabetes and its complications



Worldwide Age-Standardized Prevalence of Diabetes based on GBD 2021

- The global prevalence of diabetes from 1990 to 2050: 3.2% to 6.1% (increased by 90.5%)



DM in MENA

73 million
adults living with diabetes

1 in 3 adults
with diabetes are undiagnosed.

796 thousand
deaths due to diabetes in 2021

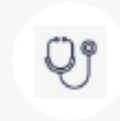
Middle-East and North Africa



1 in 6 adults (73 million) are living with diabetes.



The number of adults with diabetes expected to reach 95 million by 2030 and 136 million by 2045.



1 in 3 adults living with diabetes are undiagnosed.



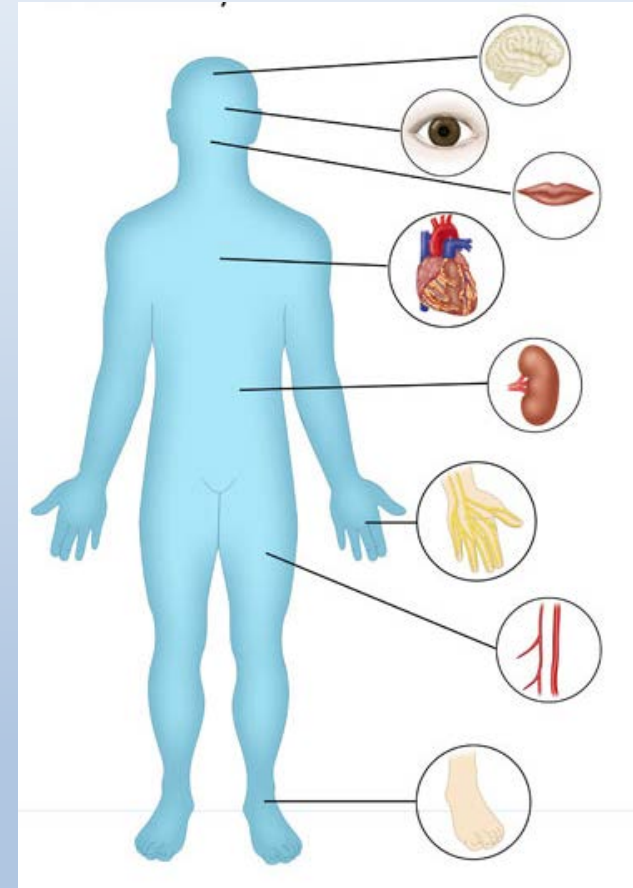
796,000 deaths caused by diabetes in 2021.



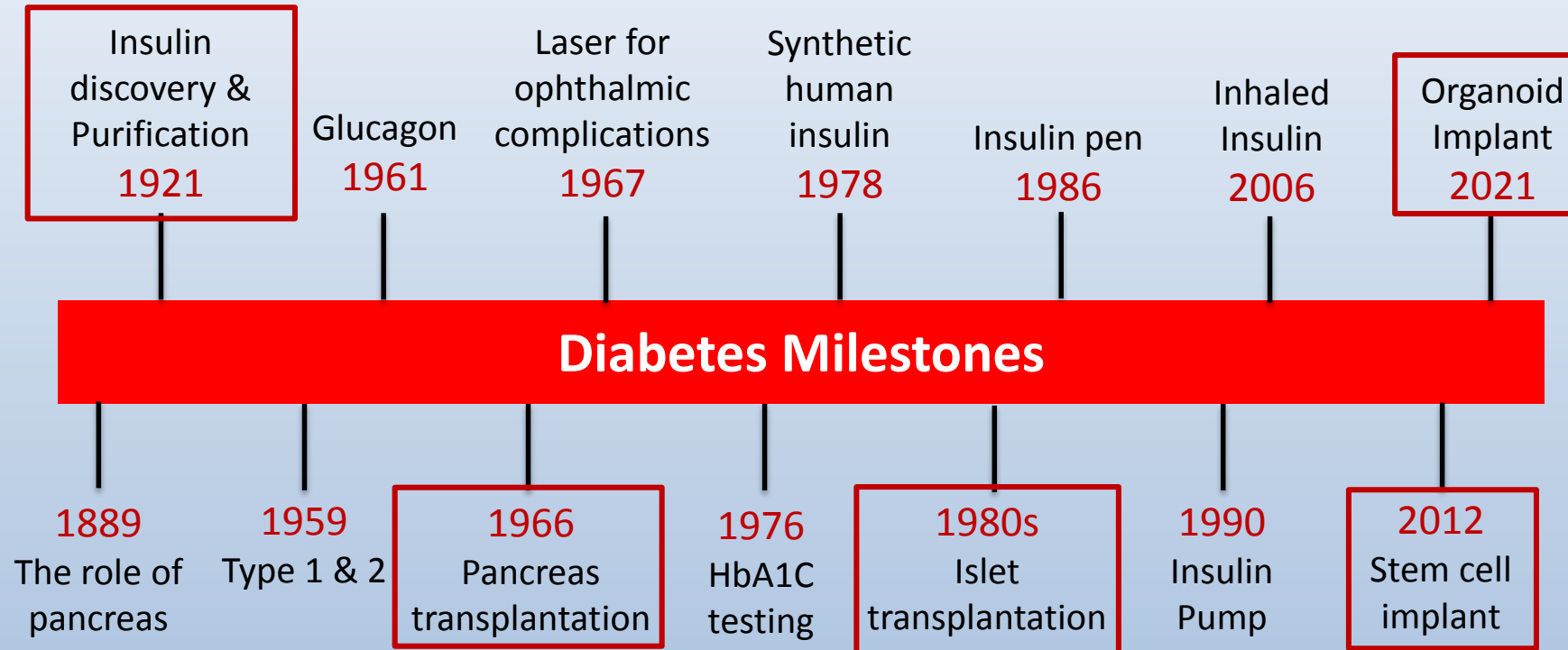
1 in 7 live births affected by hyperglycaemia in pregnancy.

Diabetes treatment

- Main objectives
 - Control of **blood glucose level**
 - Reduction of future **complications**
- Treatment modalities
 - Change in lifestyle
 - Alternative medicine
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Insulin therapy
 - Surgical procedures
 - Regenerative medicine

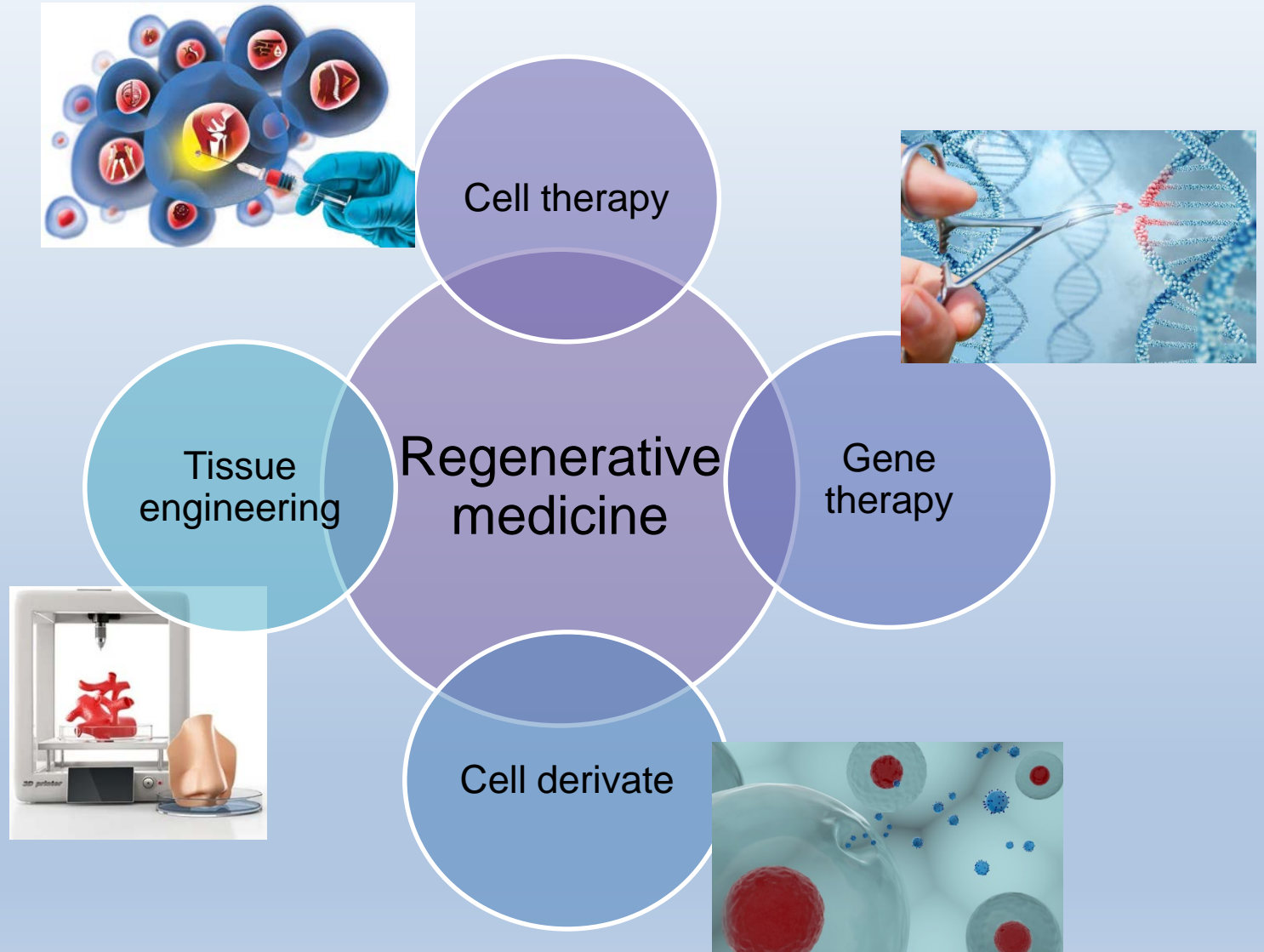


Diabetes timelines



Regenerative medicine (RM)

Regenerative medicine may be defined as the process of replacing or "**regenerating**" human **cells**, **tissues** or **organs** to restore or establish **normal function**.



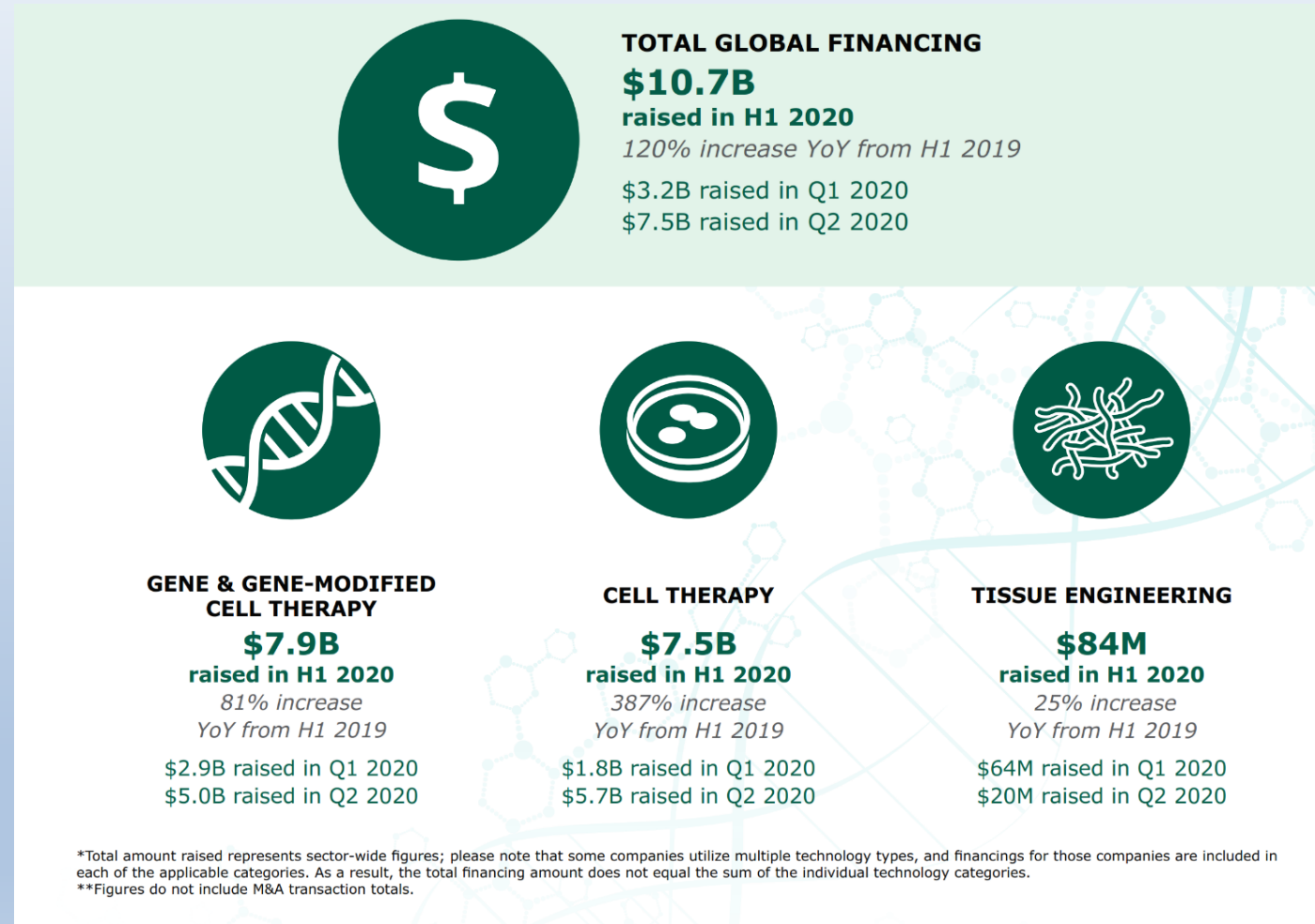
How cell therapy is a promising area of research for endocrine disorders

- Cell therapy replaces damaged or dysfunctional cells with healthy ones.
- It can be used to replace hormone-producing cells in endocrine disorders.
- Stem cells have been used to create functional beta cells in the lab, which improves blood sugar control.
- Cell therapy is a promising way to treat endocrine disorders by restoring hormonal balance and function.
- Advances in cell manipulation techniques, like gene editing and tissue engineering, may improve the effectiveness of cell-based therapies for endocrine disorders.



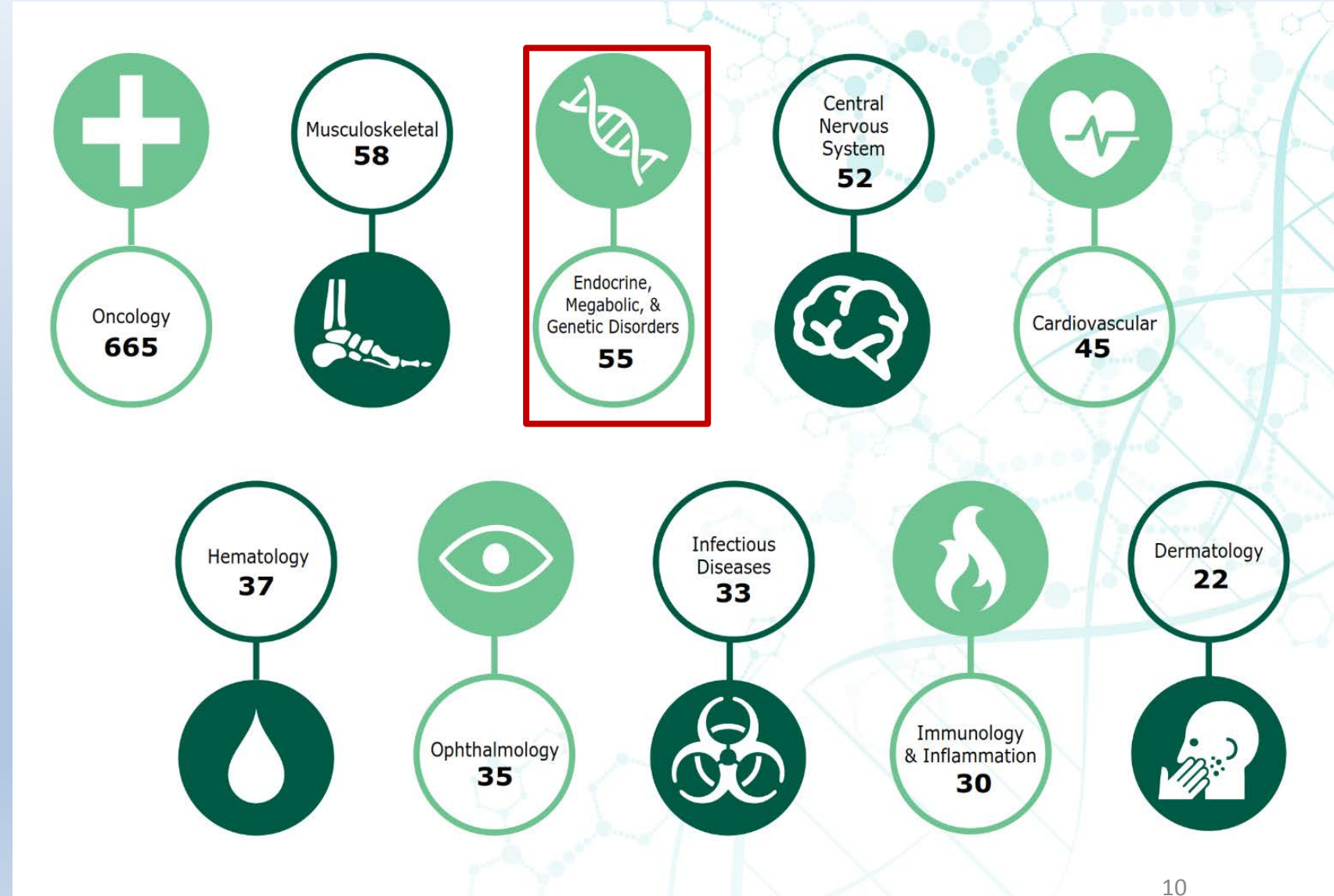
The Alliance for Regenerative Medicine (ARM) is the leading international advocacy organization championing the benefits of **engineered cell therapies** and **genetic medicines** for patients, healthcare systems, and society. You can see their financial report of first half of 2020 in this figure, which shows that **total global financing** in field of regenerative medicine had a **\$10.7B raise** since 2019

ARM H1-2020 report

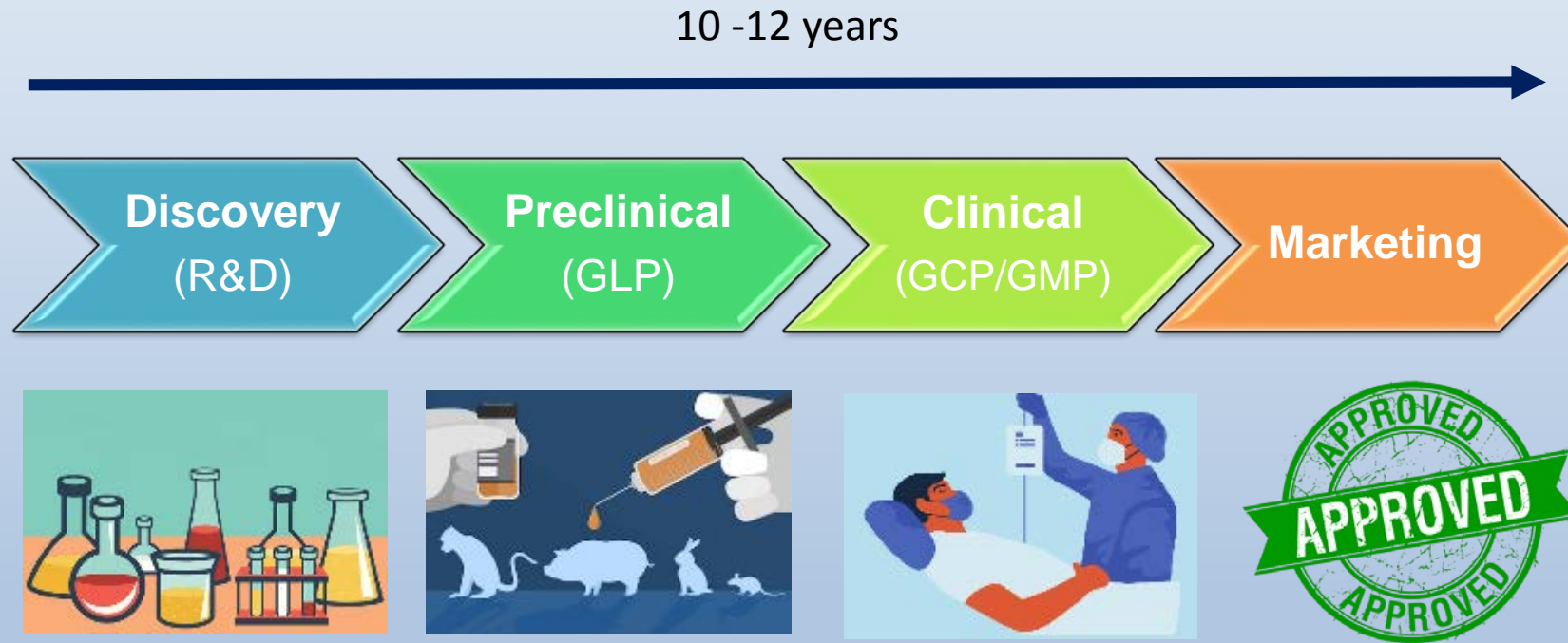


ARM H1-2020 report

1,078 Clinical Trials Currently Ongoing Worldwide. Of these, 55 clinical trials are in the field of endocrine, metabolic and genetic diseases.

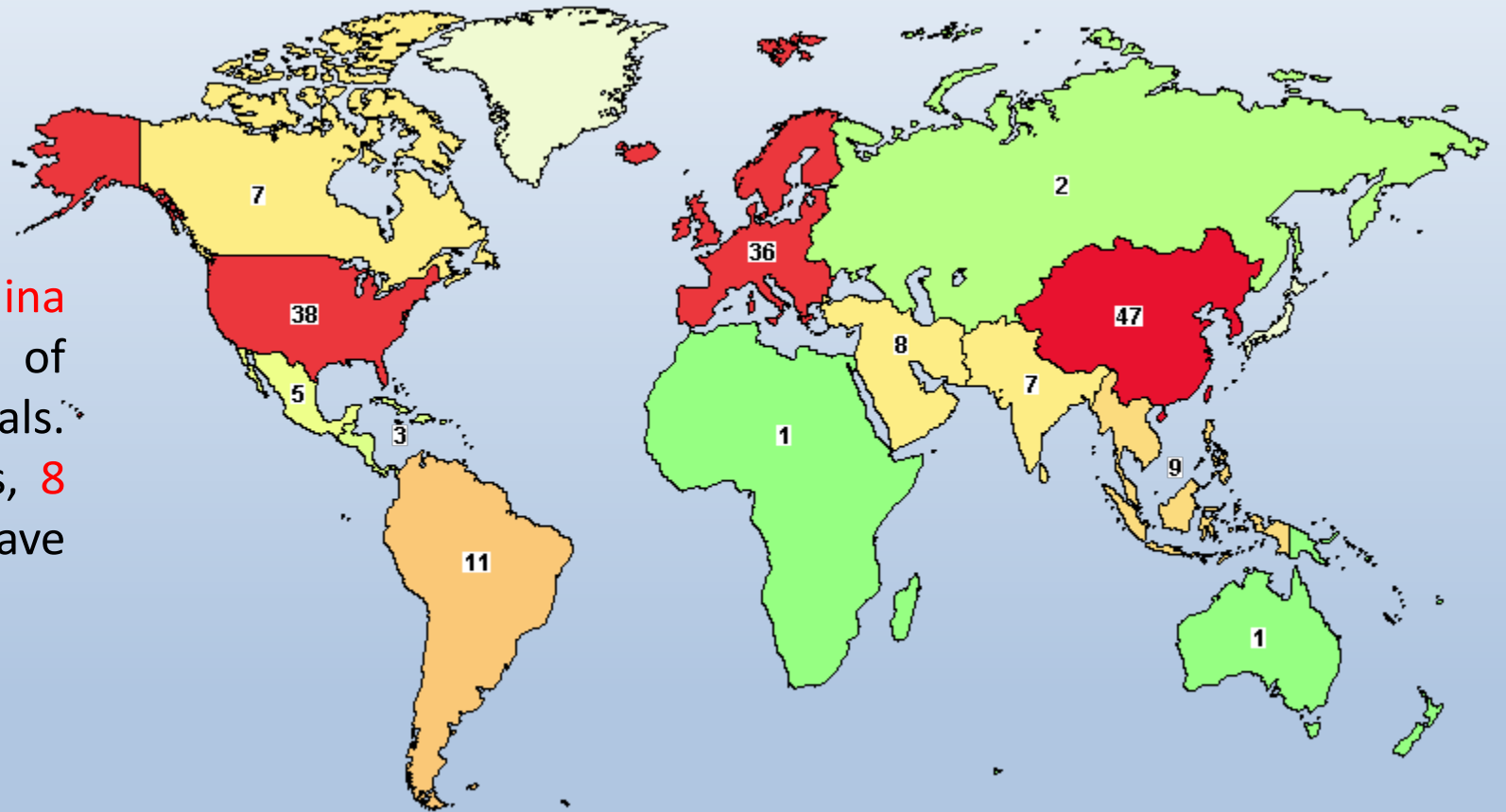


RM products commercialization

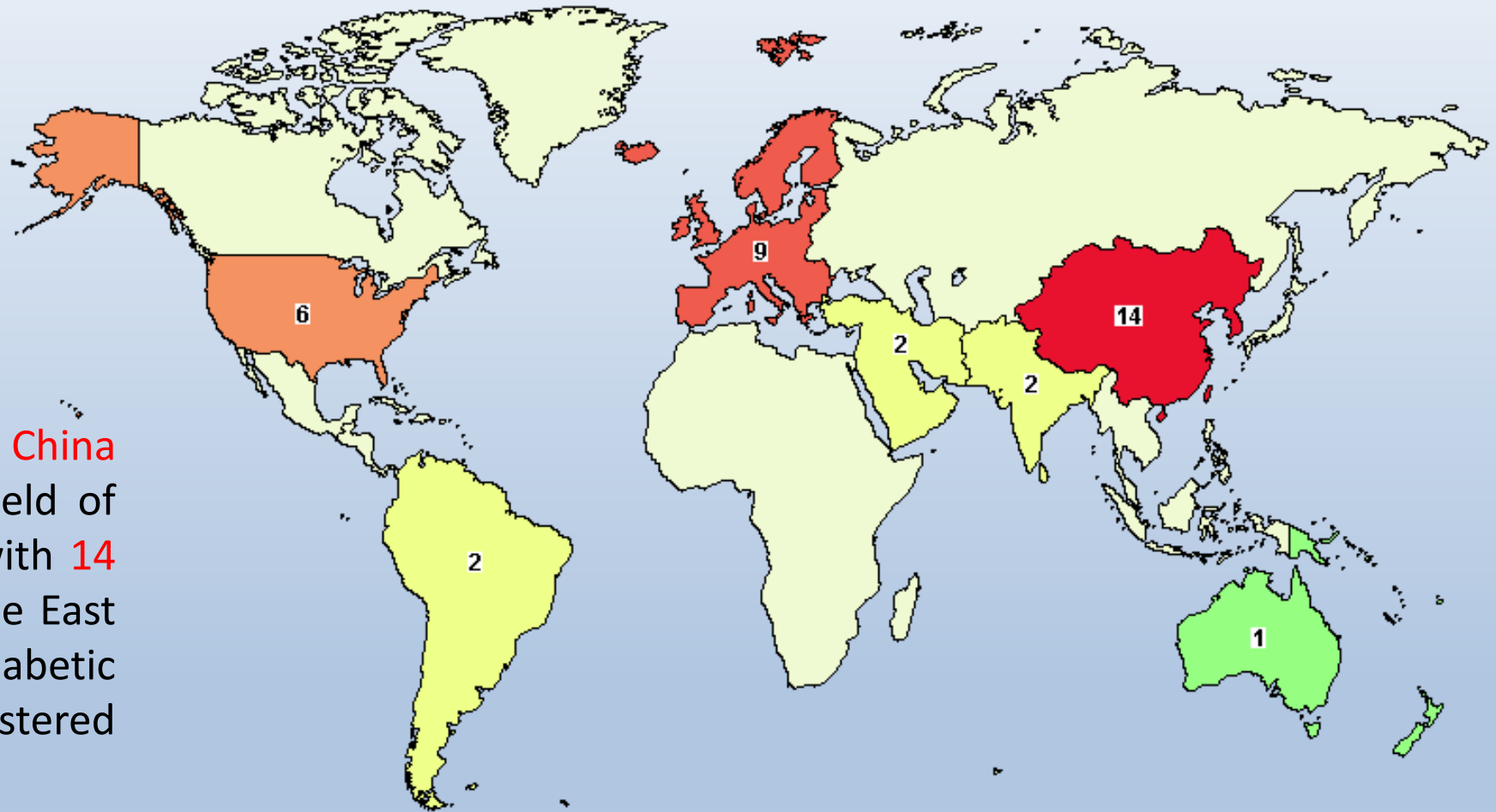


Registered clinical trials for DM cell therapy

As you can see in the figure, **China** has the most activity in the field of DM cell therapy with **47** clinical trials. In **Iran** and Middle East countries, **8** clinical trials for DM cell therapy have been registered so far.



Registered clinical trials for diabetic foot

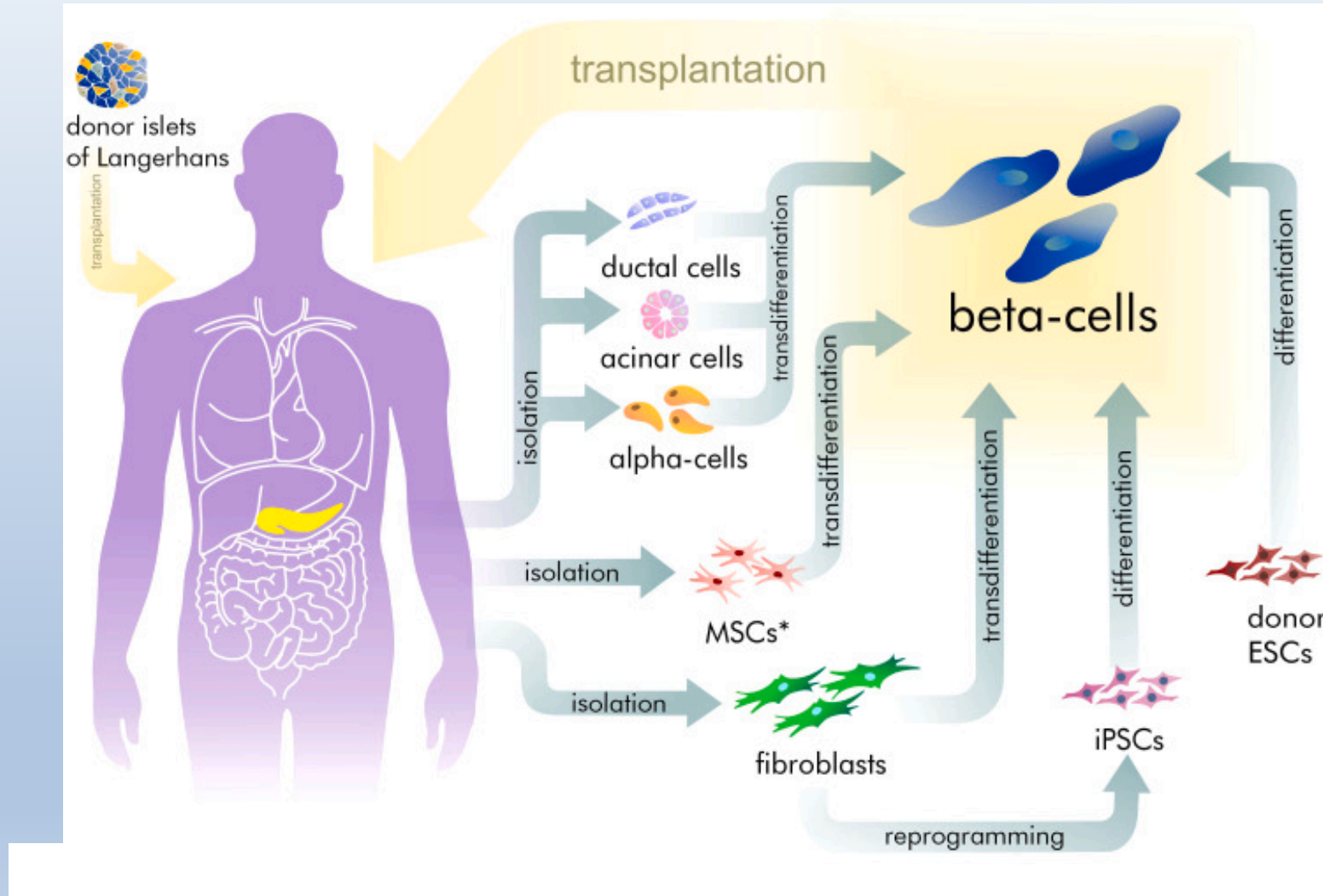


As you can see in the figure, **China** has the most activity in the field of cell therapy for diabetic foot with **14** clinical trials. In **Iran** and Middle East countries, **2** clinical trials for diabetic foot cell therapy have been registered so far.

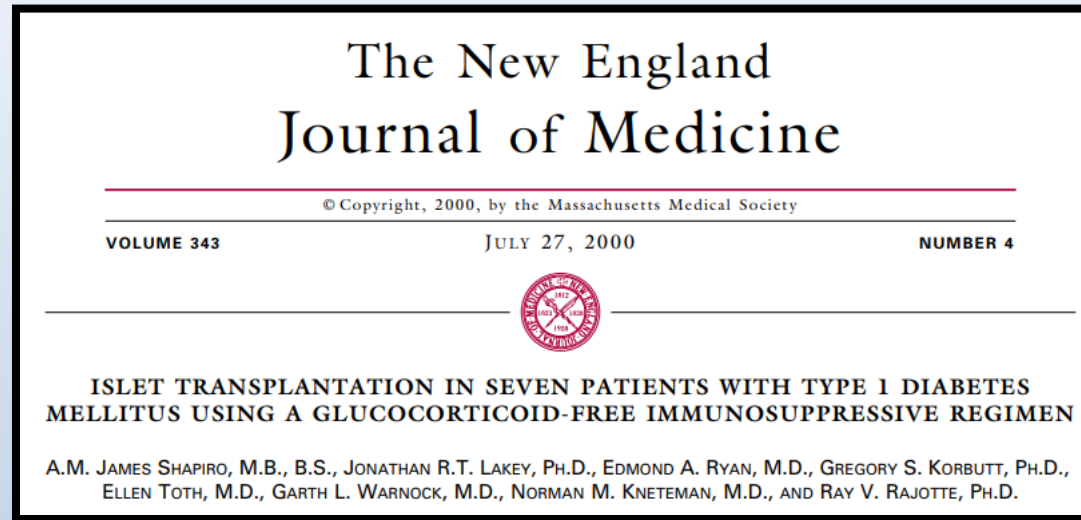
RM approaches for diabetes

- **Cell therapies**
 - Pancreatic islets transplantation
 - Immunomodulatory therapies (Telocytes (TCs), MSCs)
 - embryonic stem cells (ESCs) /induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs)-derived pancreatic progenitors
 - ESCs/iPSCs-derived β -like cells
- **Gene therapies**
 - Blockage of β -cells autoimmune destruction
 - Reprogramming non- β cells into surrogate β cells
 - Replacement of β -cell function (insulin gene therapy)
 - Producing immune evasive allogenic IPCs/PPs (induced pluripotent stem cells/ Pancreatic progenitors)
- **Tissue engineering**
 - Skin substitutes / advance dressing
 - Bioartificial Pancreas

Cell-based approaches



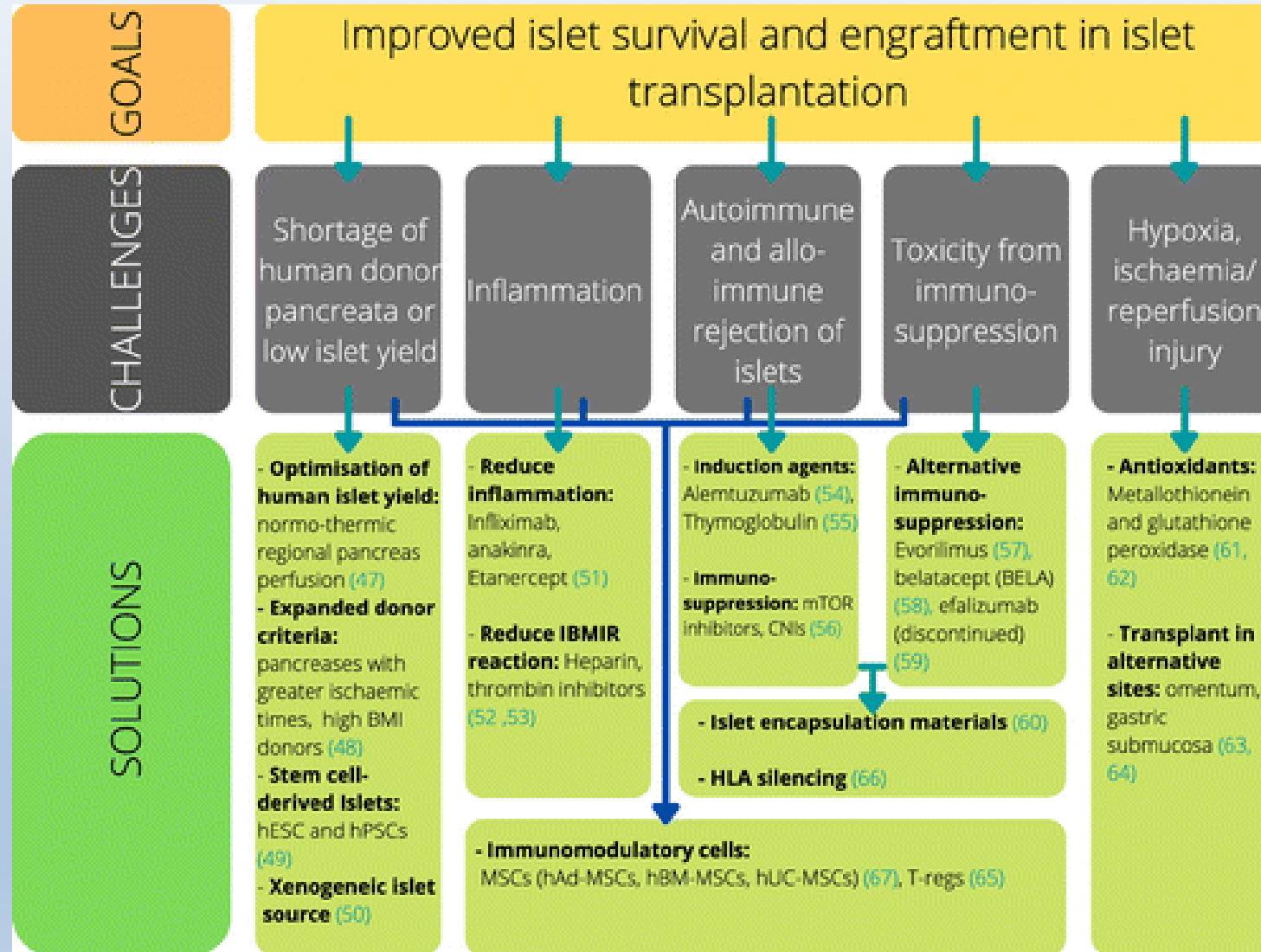
Edmonton's breakthrough



- Patients with type 1 diabetes and a history of severe hypoglycemia and metabolic instability underwent islet transplantation in conjunction with a **glucocorticoid-free immunosuppressive regimen** consisting of **sirolimus**, **tacrolimus**, and **daclizumab**. This study indicates that islet transplantation can result in **insulin independence** with excellent metabolic control when glucocorticoid-free immunosuppression is combined with the infusion of an adequate islet mass.

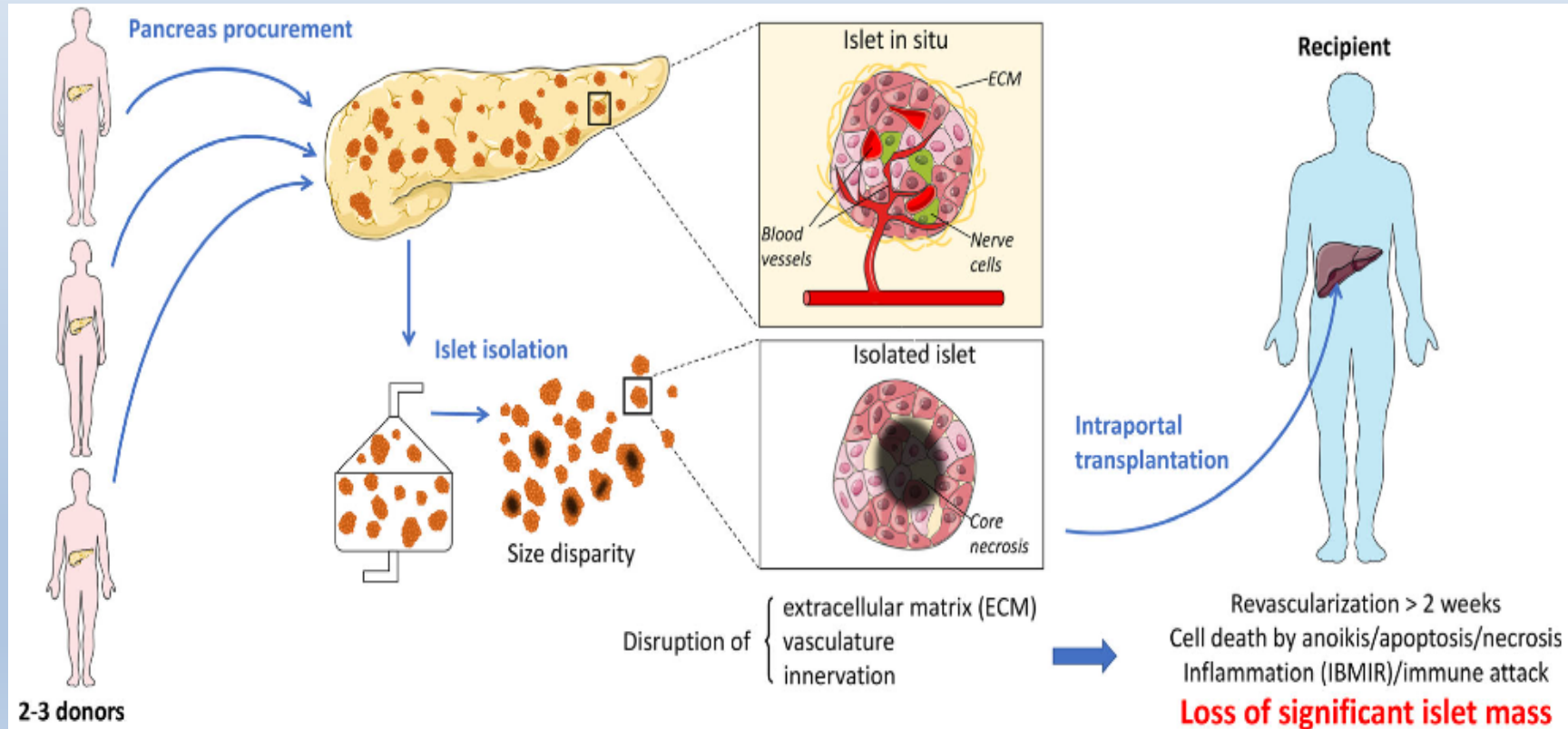
(Cited by [4471](#) up to 26 Aug 2023)

Limitations of islet transplantation



Limitations of islet transplantation

One of the most important limitations and unresolved problems in this field is **significant loss of insulin-producing tissue** during the isolation procedure and engraftment process, due to **isolation-related damage, loss of vascularization, loss of extracellular matrix**, and an **inflammatory microenvironment** at the site of implantation. These phenomena lead to the need for multiple donors in order to achieve insulin independence as well as to attrition of islet graft function over time.



FDA approves first cell therapy for type 1 diabetes

FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

LANTIDRA

STN: 125734
Proper Name: donislecel-jujn
Tradename: LANTIDRA
Manufacturer: CellTrans Inc.

Indication:

- the treatment of adults with Type 1 diabetes who are unable to approach target HbA1c because of current repeated episodes of severe hypoglycemia despite intensive diabetes management and education.

nature reviews drug discovery

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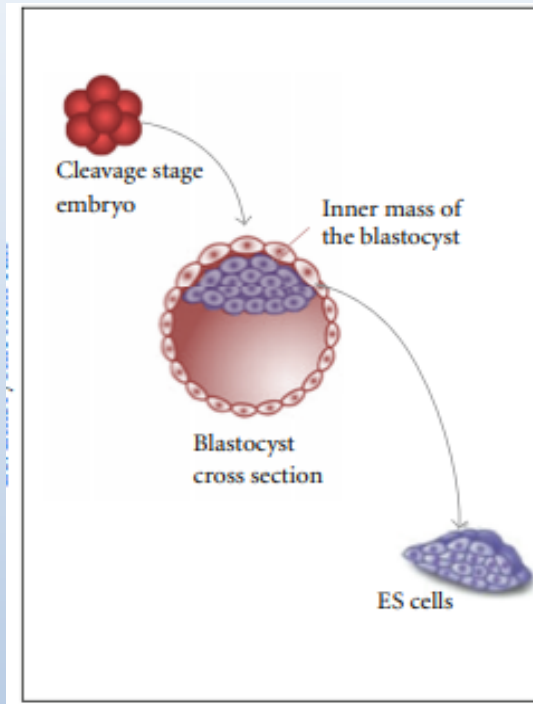
NEWS IN BRIEF 07 July 2023

FDA approves first cell therapy for type 1 diabetes

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved Lantidra, the first **allogeneic** (donor) **pancreatic islet cellular therapy** made from **deceased donor pancreatic cells** for the treatment of type 1 diabetes. The primary mechanism of action of Lantidra is believed to be the secretion of insulin by the infused allogeneic islet beta cells. Lantidra is approved for the **treatment of adults with type 1 diabetes** who are unable to approach target glycated hemoglobin (average blood glucose levels) because of current **repeated episodes of severe hypoglycemia** despite intensive diabetes management and education.

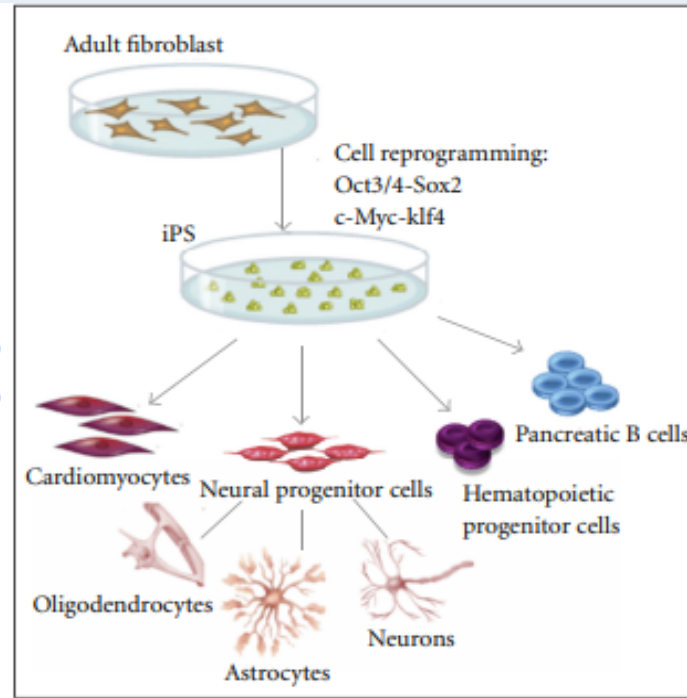
Stem cell-based approach

Embryonic stem cells



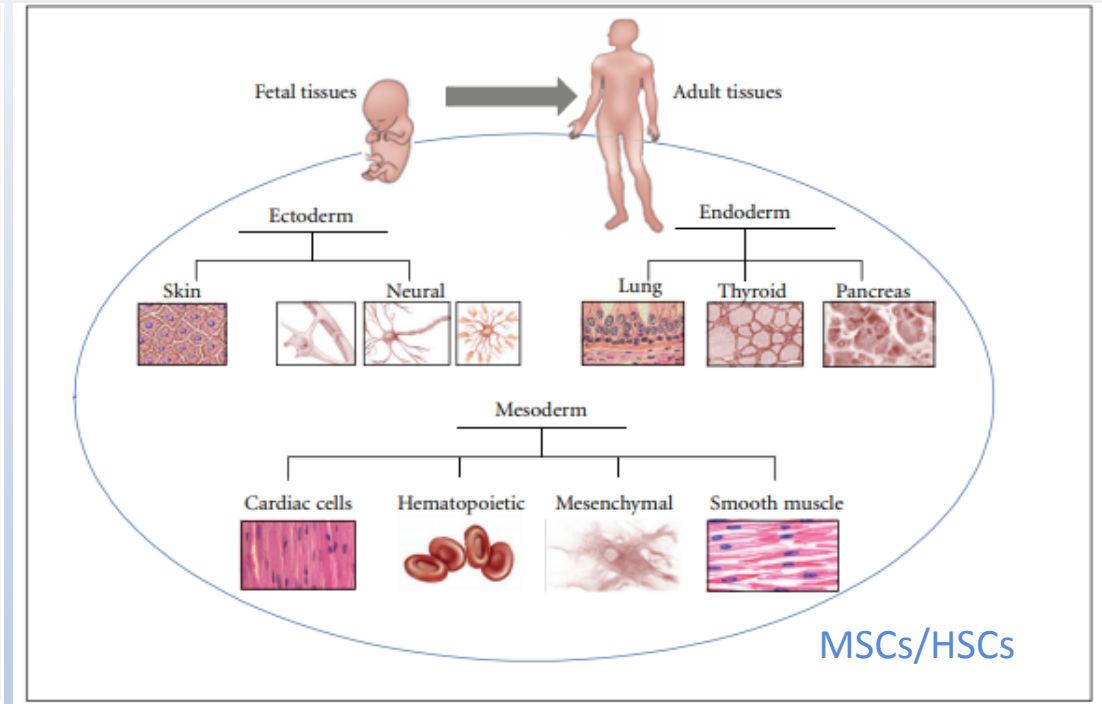
ES cells are derived from the inner mass of blastocyst and are considered as pluripotent stem cells.

induced pluripotent stem cells



iPS cells are pluripotent stem cells that are derived from adult somatic cells such as skin fibroblasts and are genetically modified by introduction of four embryogenesis-related genes

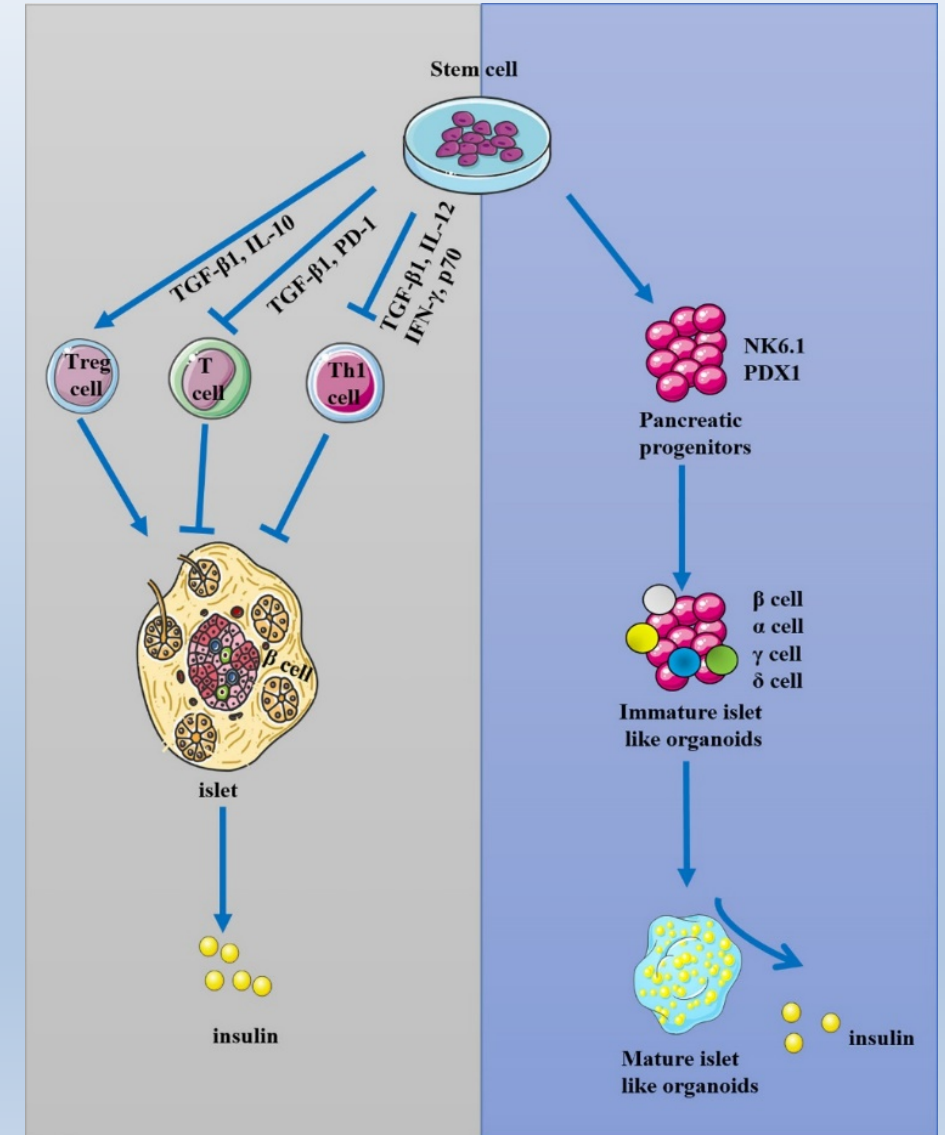
Tissue specific SCs



tissue-specific stem cells known as somatic or adult stem cells are more restricted stem cells (multipotent stem cells) and are isolated from various fetal or adult tissues

Possible mechanisms of SCs

- Stimulate the replication of remaining β -cells
- Differentiate to β -cells-like cells
- Protect the remaining β -cells by immunomodulation and anti-inflammatory effects
- Produce exogenous insulin



Embryonic stem cell-derived beta cells: 1st successful report in 2005

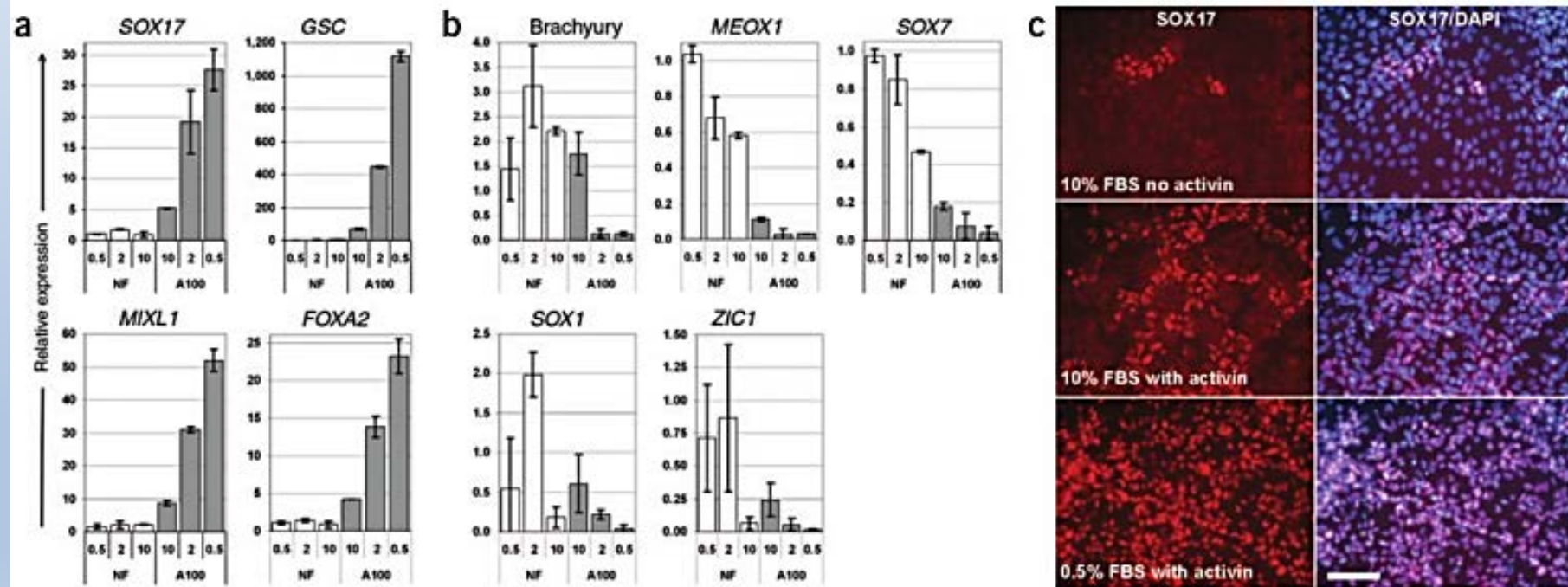
Findings of this study facilitated the use of human embryonic stem cells (HESCs) for therapeutic purposes and as in vitro models of development

ARTICLES

nature
biotechnology

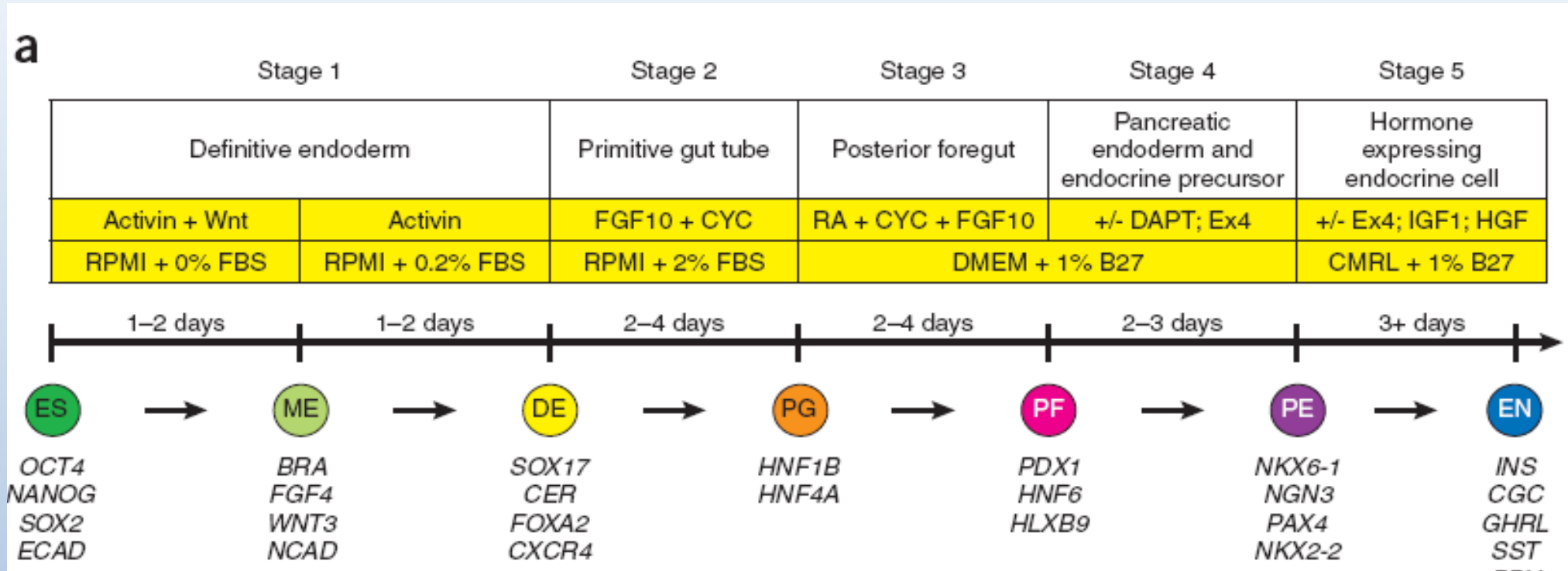
Efficient differentiation of human embryonic stem cells to definitive endoderm

Kevin A D'Amour, Alan D Agulnick, Susan Eliazer, Olivia G Kelly, Evert Kroon & Emmanuel E Baetge



D'Amour, K., Agulnick, A., Eliazer, S. et al. Efficient differentiation of human embryonic stem cells to definitive endoderm. Nat Biotechnol 23, 1534–1541 (2005). <https://doi.org/10.1038/nbt1163>

human embryonic stem cells to insulin producing cells (2006)



- Production of these **human embryonic stem cell-derived endocrine cells** in 2006 represented a critical step in the development of a **renewable source** of cells for diabetes cell therapy.
- You can see the schematic of differentiation procedure and protein expression for some key markers of pancreatic differentiation in the above picture.

ESCs to glucose responsive endocrine cells (2008)

**nature
biotechnology**

Pancreatic endoderm derived from human embryonic stem cells generates glucose-responsive insulin-secreting cells *in vivo*

Evert Kroon, Laura A Martinson, Kuniko Kadoya, Anne G Bang, Olivia G Kelly, Susan Eliazer, Holly Young, Mike Richardson, Nora G Smart, Justine Cunningham, Alan D Agulnick, Kevin A D'Amour, Melissa K Carpenter, Emmanuel E Baetge



Data from this study provided **definitive evidence** that **hES cells** are competent to generate glucose-responsive, **insulin-secreting cells**.

Science	Leadership	Grants	Patents	Clinical
47	27	>\$85M	550	1st
Peer-reviewed scientific publications	Average years of experience (Average of 9 years with ViaCyte)	From CIRM and JDRF \$72.3M CIRM + \$13.6M JDRF + more	Worldwide Patents 90 United States 400 Additional Pending Worldwide	ever clinical trials for a stem cell-derived cell replacement therapy for diabetes

Recent clinical reports-1

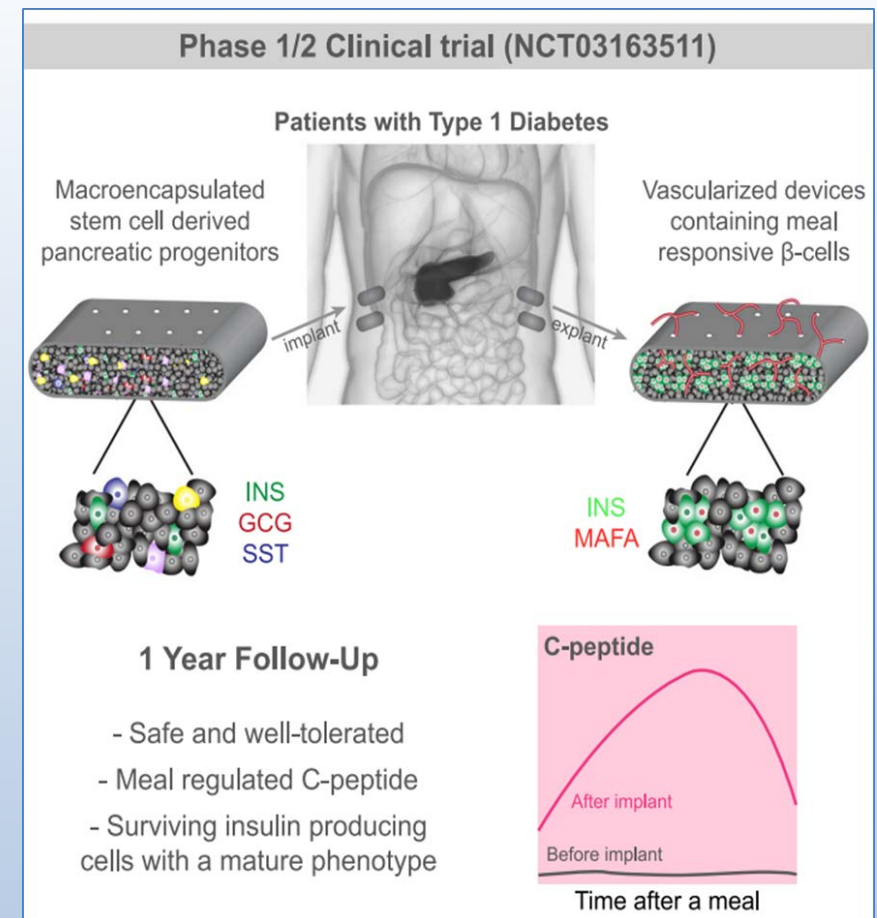
Cell Stem Cell CellPress

Volume 28, Issue 12, 2 December 2021, Pages 2047-2061.e5

Clinical and Translational Report

Implanted pluripotent stem-cell-derived pancreatic endoderm cells secrete glucose-responsive C-peptide in patients with type 1 diabetes

Adam Ramzy,¹ David M. Thompson,² Kirsten A. Ward-Hartstonge,^{3,4} Sabine Ivison,^{3,4} Laura Cook,^{3,4} Rosa V. Garcia,^{3,4} Jackson Loyal,² Peter T.W. Kim,³ Garth L. Warnock,³ Megan K. Levings,^{3,4,5} and Timothy J. Kieffer^{1,3,5,6,*}



- This study reports an analysis on 1 year of data from the first cohort of 15 patients that received subcutaneous implantation of cell products combined with an immunosuppressive regimen.
- Implants were well tolerated with no teratoma formation or severe graft-related adverse events. After implantation, patients had **increased fasting C-peptide levels** and **increased glucose-responsive C-peptide levels** and developed mixed meal-stimulated C-peptide secretion.

Recent clinical reports-2



Cell Reports Medicine
Volume 2, Issue 12, 21 December 2021, 100466

CellPress
OPEN ACCESS

Article

Insulin expression and C-peptide in type 1 diabetes subjects implanted with stem cell-derived pancreatic endoderm cells in an encapsulation device

A.M. James Shapiro,¹ David Thompson,² Thomas W. Donner,³ Melena D. Bellin,⁴ Willa Hsueh,⁵ Jeremy Pettus,⁶ Jon Wilensky,⁷ Mark Daniels,⁸ Richard M. Wang,⁸ Eugene P. Brandon,⁸ Manasi S. Jaiman,⁸ Evert J. Kroon,⁸ Kevin A. D'Amour,⁸ and Howard L. Foyt^{8,9,*}

- These preliminary data from a first-in-human phase 1/2, open-label study provide proof-of-concept that pluripotent stem cell-derived pancreatic endoderm cells (PEC-01) engrafted in type 1 diabetes patients become islet cells releasing insulin in a **physiologically regulated fashion**.

17 participants (9 male, 8 female)

Table 1. Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria

Men and non-pregnant women

Diagnosis of T1D for a minimum of 5 years

Hypoglycemia unawareness (Clarke score) or significant glycemic lability

Stable diabetic treatment

Willingness to use a continuous glucose meter

Acceptable candidate for surgical implantation

Exclusion criteria

History of islet cell, kidney, and/or pancreas transplant

Six or more severe, unexplained hypoglycemic events within 6 months of enrollment

Uncontrolled or untreated thyroid disease or adrenal insufficiency

Diabetic complications such as severe kidney disease or renal dysfunction, proliferative retinopathy, foot ulcers, amputations, and/or severe peripheral neuropathy

Detectable stimulated serum C-peptide during the screening period^a

^aC-peptide was assessed at two separate screening visits.

VC-02 Macroencapsulation Device (Phase 1/2 trial)

Pluripotent stem cell-derived pancreatic endoderm cells (PEC-01)



Subcutaneous implantation of device containing PEC-01 cells in subjects with T1D

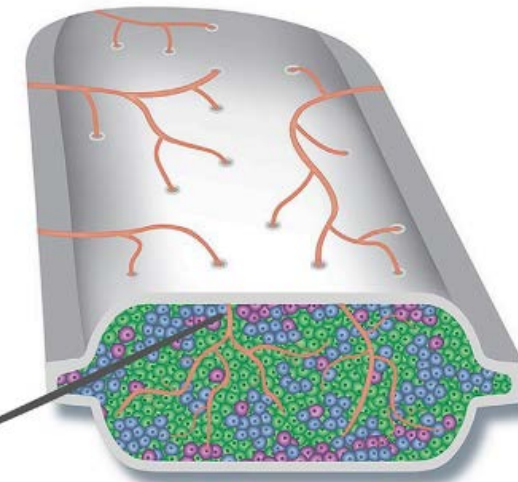


Maturation of PEC-01 cells into mixture of islet cell types

Direct vascularization of cells



Cell engraftment and insulin production



Outcome: Engraftment and insulin expression were observed in 63% of VC-02 units, 3–12 months post-implant

Many companies are engaged in research and activities in the field of regenerative medicine especially in the field of endocrine diseases.



Immune evasive pancreatic progenitors



Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News > Vol. 42, No. 5 > GENEDGE

First Patient Dosed with VCTX210, a Cell Therapy for Type 1 Diabetes

ViaCyte and CRISPR Therapeutics are evaluating an immune-evasive cell replacement therapy that they developed to help patients produce their own insulin

Alex Philippidis

Published Online: 10 May 2022 | <https://doi.org/10.1089/gen.42.05.02>

Immune evasion: mechanisms to circumvent or **suppress immune-mediated** targeting and **killing**

This gene-editing cell replacement therapy for the treatment of type 1 diabetes (T1D), is developed by CRISPR Therapeutics and ViaCyte, Inc., using CRISPR/Cas9 technology to **modify stem cells** to **avoid immune rejection**.



Semma Therapeutics is a biotechnology company that was founded by HSCI Co-Director Douglas Melton, Ph.D., to develop **cell therapies for type 1 diabetes** based on his groundbreaking research on stem cell-derived beta cells

HSCI and Semma Therapeutics have also collaborated with other institutions to establish the first area **cell transplantation center** in Boston, which aims to translate stem cell discoveries into **treatments for diabetic patients.**

> Cell. 2014 Oct 9;159(2):428-39. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2014.09.040.

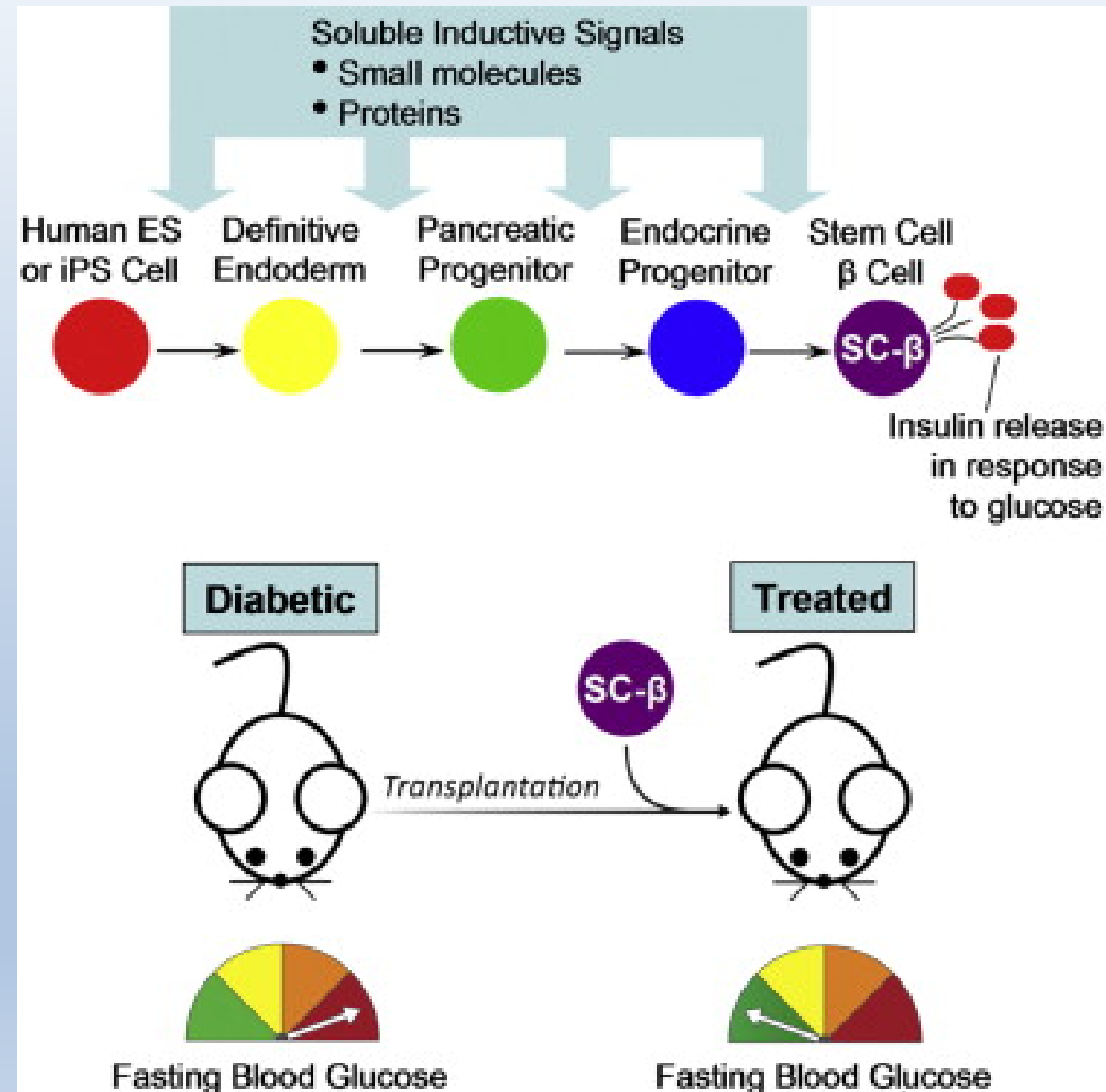
Generation of functional human pancreatic β cells in vitro

Felicia W Pagliuca¹, Jeffrey R Millman¹, Mads Gürtler¹, Michael Segel¹, Alana Van Dervort¹, Jennifer Hyoje Ryu¹, Quinn P Peterson¹, Dale Greiner², Douglas A Melton³

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 25303535 PMCID: PMC4617632 DOI: 10.1016/j.cell.2014.09.040

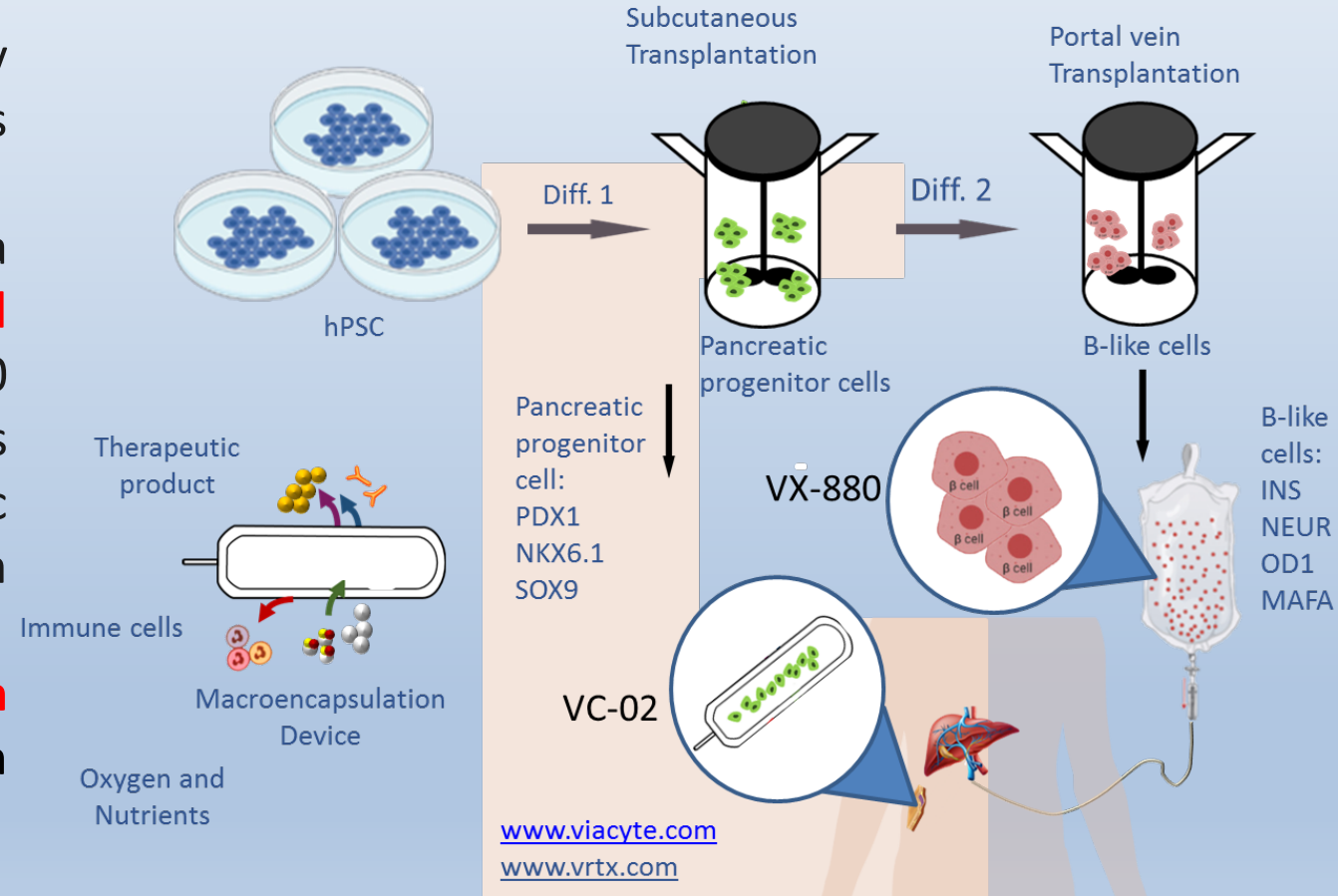
This article reports a scalable differentiation protocol that can generate hundreds of millions of glucose-responsive β cells from hPSC in vitro. These stem-cell-derived β cells (**secrete quantities of insulin comparable to adult β cells in response to multiple sequential glucose challenges** in vitro. Furthermore, these cells secrete human insulin into the serum of mice **shortly after transplantation** in a **glucose-regulated manner**).



Vertex: VX-880 project



- Vertex Pharmaceuticals is a biotechnology company that develops and commercializes medicines.
- One of its investigational products is **VX-880**, a **stem cell-derived, fully differentiated islet cell therapy** for people with **type 1 diabetes**. VX-880 is currently in a Phase 1/2 clinical trial, which has shown promising results in improving glycemic control and reducing or eliminating insulin use in patients with type 1 diabetes.
- VX-880 has also received **Fast Track Designation** from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (**FDA**).



The involvement of insulin producing pharmaceutical companies in cell therapy research is proof that the future of diabetes treatment is tied to cell therapy.

The Novo Nordisk have two foundation for cell therapy research. (Foundation Center for Stem Cell Biology (**DanStem**) and Foundation Center for Stem Cell Medicine (**reNEW**))

Procyon collaborates with Novo Nordisk A/S on the development of a stem cell-based therapy for Type 1 diabetes



Novo Nordisk Foundation
Center for Stem Cell Biology
DanStem

Search...

Center for Stem Cell Research and Developmental Biology (DanStem) 2011 - 2022

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 - Ferretti Group
 - Ober Group
 - Semb Group
 - PanCryos: DanStem Spinout Project**

PanCryos: DanStem Spinout Project

PanCRYOS - Developing a safe and scalable cell therapy for Type 1 diabetes

PANCRYOS
INSULIN. NATURALLY.

PanCryos is a prospective spin out company arising from DanStem, University of Copenhagen, aiming to develop a next generation stem cell derived allogenic cell therapy (PanINSULA™) for type 1 diabetes, based on novel IP in the differentiation of stem cells into mature beta cells and in the purification of pancreatic progenitor cells. PanCryos has assembled a team with experts in stem cell biology, islet transplantations, business and regulatory guidance and is currently funded by pre-seed funding from Novo Seeds and a KU POC grant. We are seeking both partners and investors that could support our efforts in reaching the goal of a first-in-class phase I/II clinical trial.

For more information please visit www.pancryos.com

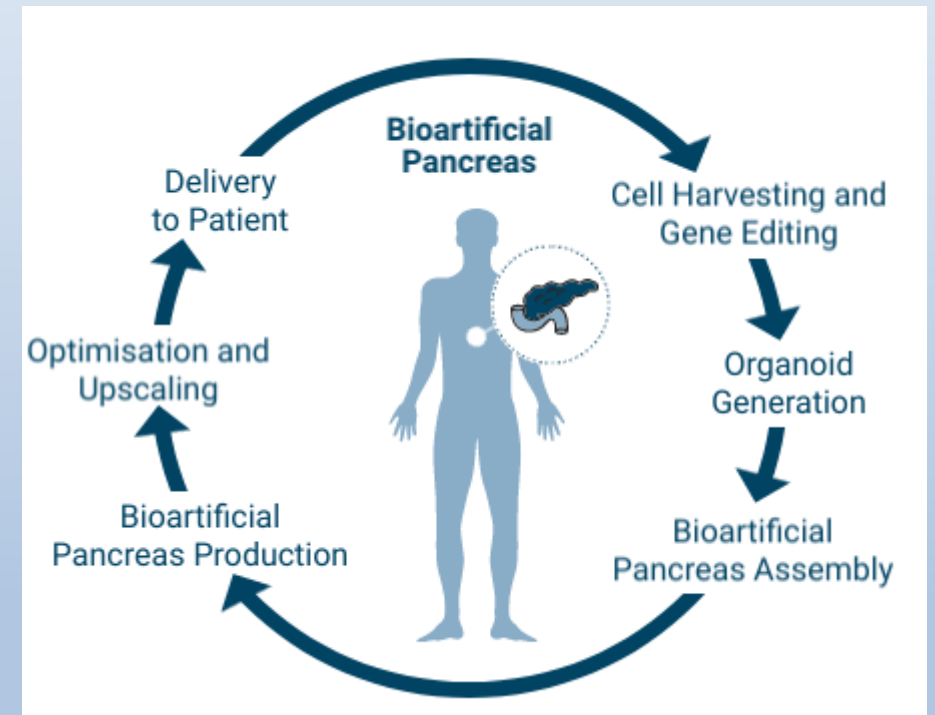
PanCryos in the News:

- <https://www.businessinsights.dk/life-science/academic-spinout-pushes-new-diabetes-treatment-to-the-clinic/>



Bioartificial pancreas

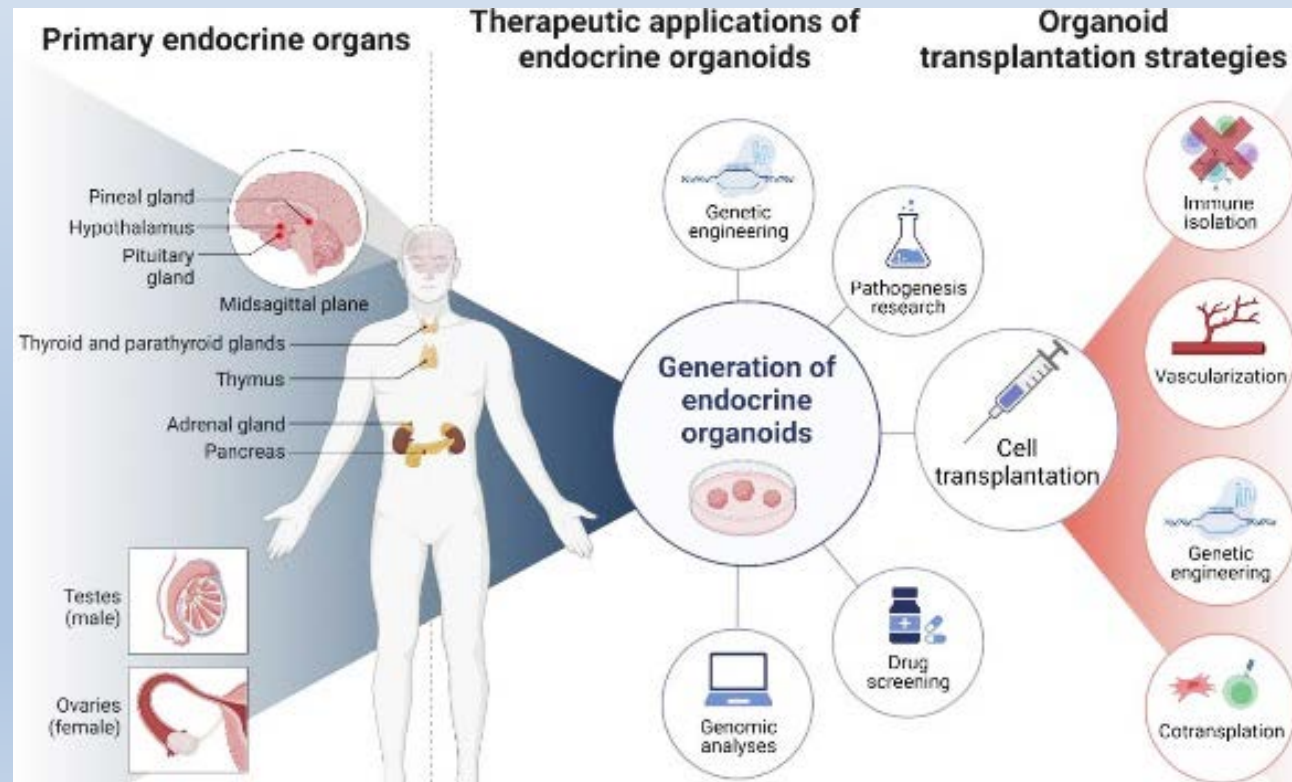
- European (EU) H2020 funded **VANGUARD project** is set to generate a tissue engineered bioartificial pancreas. The developed beta cell replacement therapy will be available to larger numbers of type 1 diabetic patients.
- The VANGUARD project aims to generate a **vascularized** and **immune-protected** bioartificial pancreas that can be transplanted into **non-immuno-suppressed patients** by combining advanced tissue engineering strategies.
- It involves nine project partners from seven European countries and has a budget of € 6.8 million.



Endocrine organoids for therapeutic application

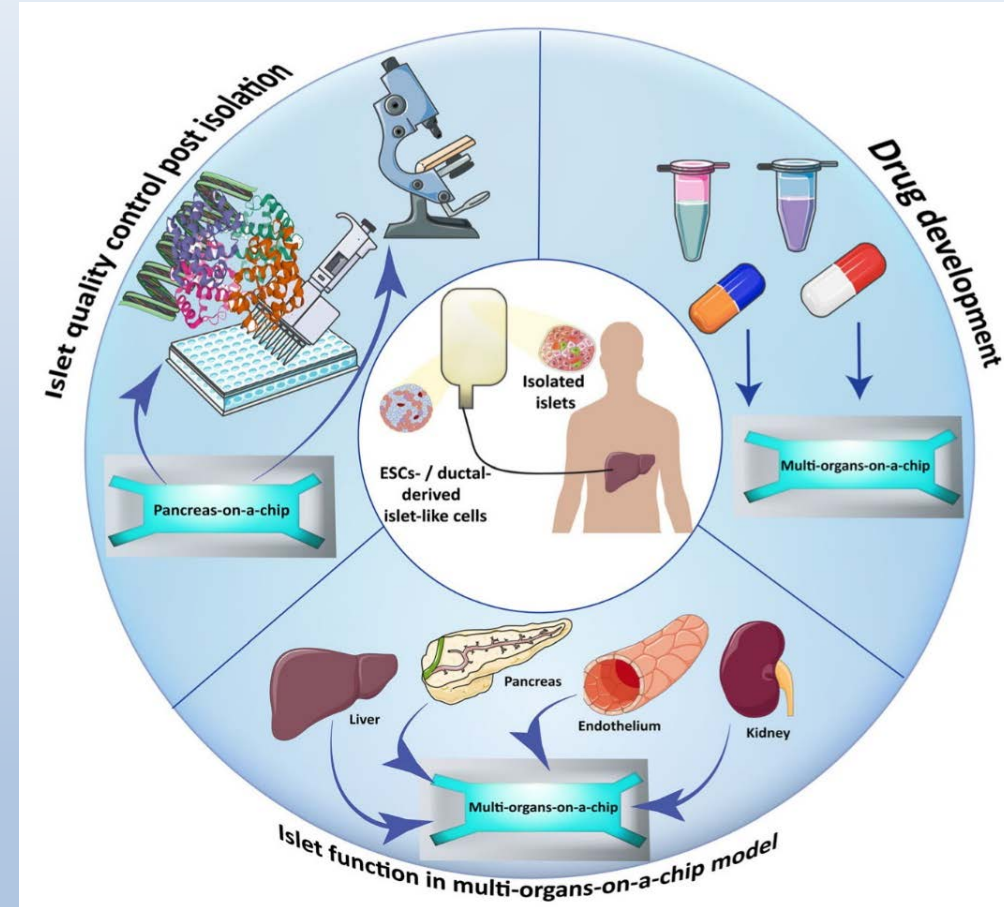
Organoids are 'in vitro mini-organs', in which cells (clusters) isolated from tissues or differentiated from stem cells form functional 3D structures to mimic the organ.

The advancement of endocrine organoids has been accelerated with evolving scientific tools such as **gene editing**, **stem cell differentiation** technology, and **3D culture system**. Combined with marked improvements in the generation of high-quality organoids, various strategies for the **transplantation of endocrine organoids** were introduced and evaluated in both **preclinical** and **clinical studies**.



Pancreas-on-a-chip

- Pancreas-on-a-chip (PoC), which refers to the study of endocrine part of the pancreas on microfluidic chip, may be used as a standardized and **real-time assessment platform** for evaluating **islet potency and quality**.
- Human pancreas-on-a-chip (PoC) technology is quickly advancing as a platform for complex in vitro modeling of islet physiology.
- In this picture you can see **Pancreas-on-a-chip application for diabetes and islet transplantation** research which includes:
 - **islet quality control** post-isolation procedure
 - stem cell-derived beta-like cell **function assay**
 - **Drug development**



Challenges



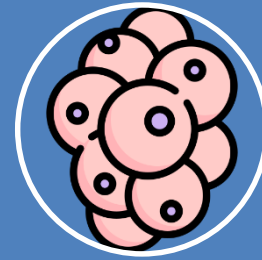
Purity of the differentiated cells



Potency of the differentiated cells



Functionality after transplantation



Cell Survival after transplantation



Immune suppression



Mass production (scale up)



SCs therapies in osteoporosis



Front Endocrinol (Lausanne). 2020; 11: 430.

PMCID: PMC7347755

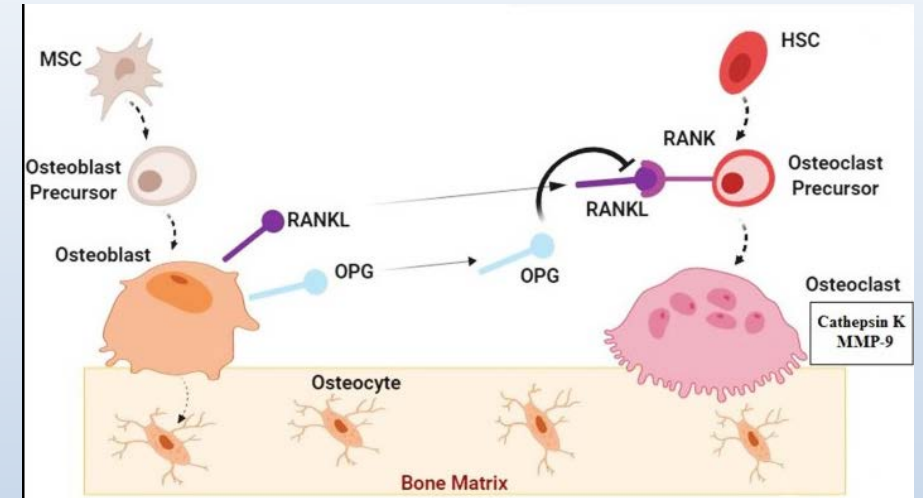
Published online 2020 Jul 3. doi: [10.3389/fendo.2020.00430](https://doi.org/10.3389/fendo.2020.00430)

PMID: [32719657](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32719657/)

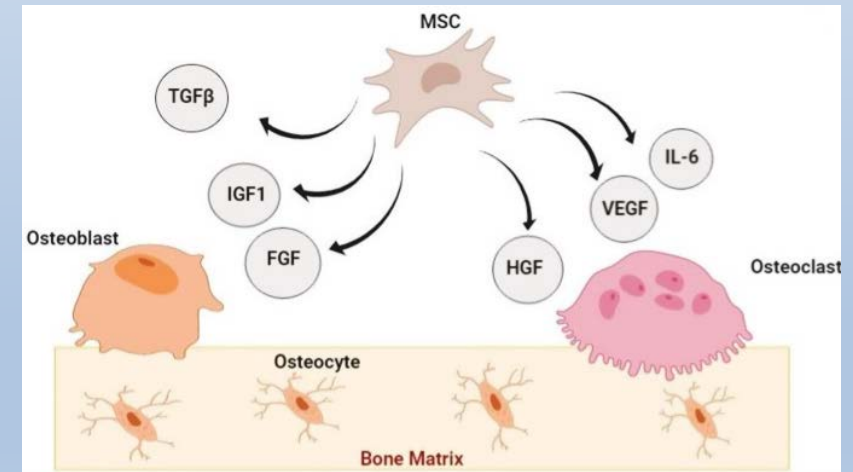
Prospect of Stem Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine in Osteoporosis

[Babak Arjmand](#),^{1,2,†} [Masoumeh Sarvari](#),² [Sepideh Alavi-Moghadam](#),¹ [Moloud Payab](#),^{3,†} [Parisa Goodarzi](#),⁴ [Kambiz Gilany](#),^{5,6,7,†} [Neda Mehrdad](#),⁸ and [Bagher Larjani](#)^{9,*†}

MSCs therapy is the most common technique of regenerative medicine in osteoporosis treatment. Moreover, **using small molecules** (e.g., PTH and oxytocin) which **employ endogenous stem cells** for osteoporosis treatment will be intertwined in future management



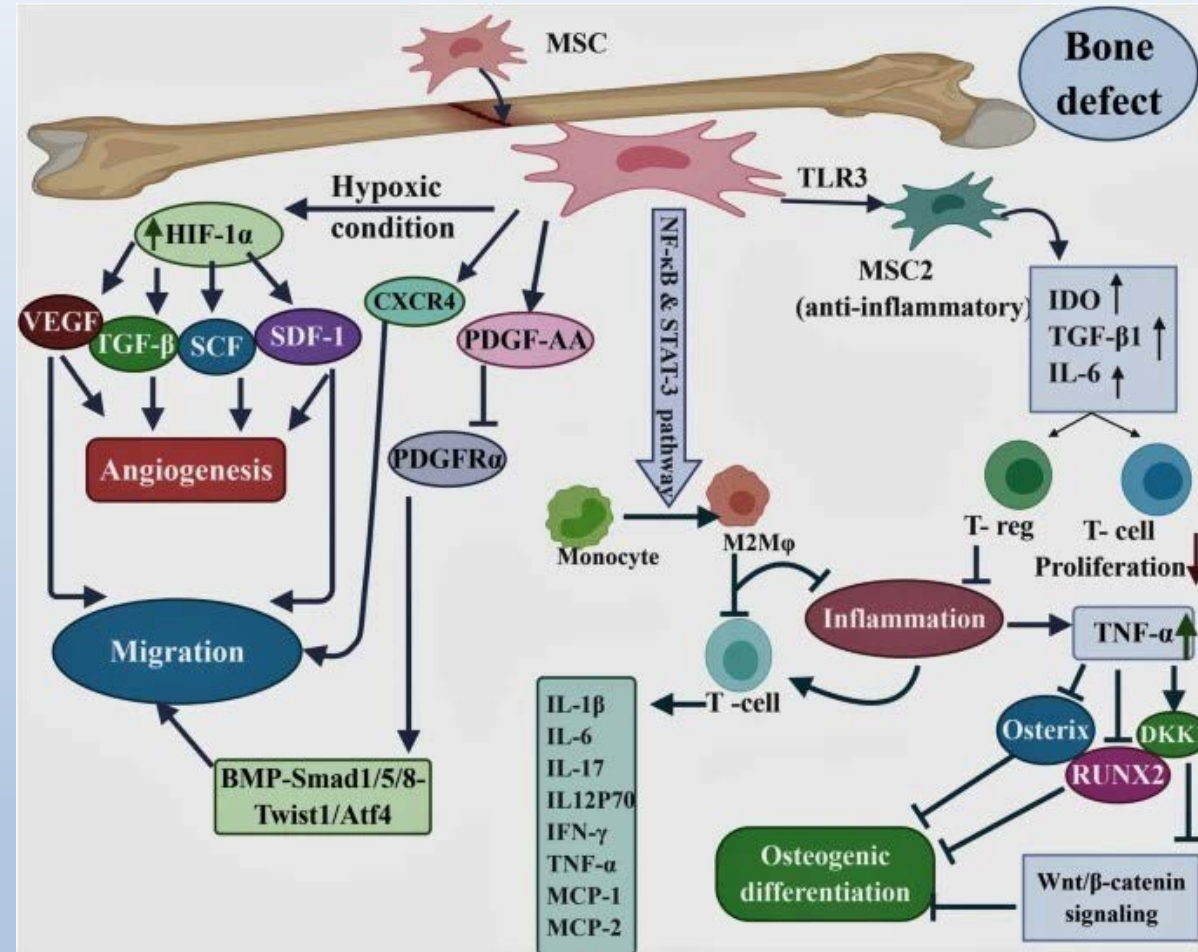
Normal Bone Biology; Signaling Pathways



Paracrine Effects of Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Bone Regeneration

The suggested SC sources

- Osteoporosis therapies can be carried out by exogenous introduction of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), typically procured from **bone marrow**, **adipose**, and **umbilical cord blood** tissues or through treatments with **drugs or small molecules** that recruit endogenous stem cells to osteoporotic sites.
- both **adipose** tissue and **bone marrow** seem to be promising stem cell sources for **osteoarthritis** therapy.
- **HUCB-MSCs** are less immunogenic and have the chondrogenic differentiation potential, therefore promoting **cartilage repair without bone formation** in a long period of time



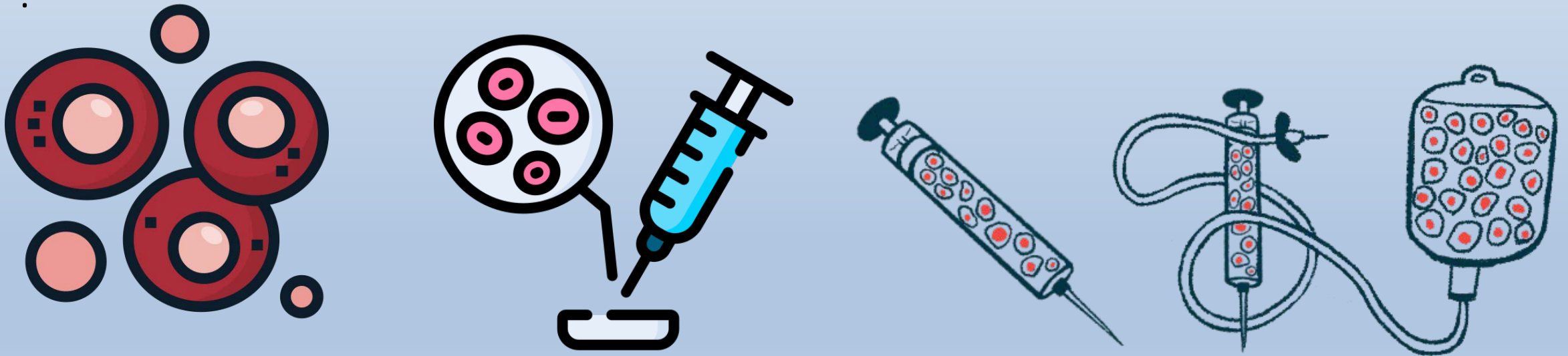
Regenerative medicine in Adrenal and Thyroid gland

- Glucocorticoids are secreted following a circadian rhythm, which is impossible to adequately recapitulate using current replacement therapies with synthetic glucocorticoids. Promising results have recently been obtained using cell replacement therapies. In particular, **encapsulation of adrenocortical (stem) cells** opens new prospects for successful transplantation. Furthermore, **stem cells from the adrenal medulla** might have the potential to be used for the treatment of **neurodegenerative diseases**.
- Regenerative medicine approaches, such as a bioengineered thyroid, have been proposed as potential therapeutic alternatives for patients with hypothyroidism. Some studies demonstrate the utility of a **decellularized thyroid extracellular matrix scaffold** system for the development of functional, **bioengineered thyroid tissue**, which could potentially be used to treat hypothyroidism.

Bornstein SR, Malyukov M, Heller C, Ziegler CG, Ruiz-Babot G, Schedl A, Ludwig B, Steenblock C. New horizons: novel adrenal regenerative therapies. *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*. 2020 Sep;105(9):3103-7.

Pan J, Li H, Fang Y, Shen YB, Zhou XY, Zhu F, Zhu LX, Du YH, Yu XF, Wang Y, Zhou XH. Regeneration of a bioengineered thyroid using decellularized thyroid matrix. *Thyroid*. 2019 Jan 1;29(1):142-52.

- Many researches have been conducted in the field of regenerative medicine in order to treat various endocrine diseases and the **cure of chronic diseases** is expected to be seen in the near future.
- Due to the high burden of diabetes all over the world, many researchers and pharmaceutical companies have focused on regenerative medicine in the field of diabetes, but researches are also being conducted on other endocrine diseases.



Our works & experiences in the field

Good manufacturing practice (GMP) compliant

Good manufacturing practice (GMP) compliant in cell therapy is the adherence to the **standards** and **regulations** that ensure the **quality, safety, and efficacy** of cell-based products for human use. GMP compliance involves the establishment of a quality management system, the documentation of standard operating procedures, the validation of equipment and methods, the monitoring and control of manufacturing processes and facilities, and the training and auditing of personnel.

A lot of research has been done in Iran in order to make sure that regenerative medicine research is done according to GMP.



Published: 05 August 2011

Establishing a cGMP pancreatic islet processing facility: the first experience in Iran

[Bagher Larijani](#), [Babak Arjmand](#), [Mahsa M. Amoli](#), [Ziliang Ao](#), [Ali Jafarian](#), [Mitra Mahdavi-Mazdah](#), [Hossein Ghanaati](#), [Reza Baradar-Jalili](#), [Sasan Sharghi](#), [Abbas Norouzi-Javidan](#) & [Hamid Reza Aghayan](#) 

In this article we will briefly describe our experience in setting up a cGMP islet processing facility which can provide valuable information for regional countries interested to establish similar facilities.

Methods in Molecular Biology
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Standard Operating Procedure for the Good Manufacturing Practice-Compliant Production of Human Endometrial Stem Cells for Multiple Sclerosis

Somayeh Ebrahimi-Barough, **Jafar Ai**, **Moloud Payab**,
Sepideh Alavi-Moghadam, **Ameneh Shokati**, **Hamid Reza Aghayan**,
Bagher Larijani, and **Babak Arjmand** 

Human endometrial stem cells as an invaluable source for cell therapy have introduced treatment for MS. In this respect, good manufacturing practice (GMP) has a pivotal role in clinical production of stem cells. This chapter tries to describe the protocol of GMP-grade endometrial stem cells for treatment of MS.

1. **Larijani, B.**, Arjmand, B., Amoli, M.M. *et al.* Establishing a cGMP pancreatic islet processing facility: the first experience in Iran. *Cell Tissue Bank* **13**, 569–575 (2012).
2. Ebrahimi-Barough S,..., **Larijani B.**, Arjmand B. Standard operating procedure for the good manufacturing practice-compliant production of human endometrial stem cells for multiple sclerosis. *Stem Cells and Good Manufacturing Practices: Methods, Protocols, and Regulations*. 2021:199-212.


GMP-Grade Human Fetal Liver-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells for Clinical Transplantation

**Bagher Larijani, Hamid-Reza Aghayan, Parisa Goodarzi,
and Babak Arjmand**

In this chapter the authors have demonstrated the manufacturing of GMP-grade human fetal liver-derived mesenchymal stem cells.



GMP-Compliant Production of Human Placenta-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells

**Hamid Reza Aghayan, Moloud Payab, Fereshteh Mohamadi-Jahani,
Seyed Sajjad Aghayan, Bagher Larijani, and Babak Arjmand** 

the current chapter is to describe GMP-compliant production of human PLMSCs, which are suitable for clinical applications.

1. **Larijani B**, Aghayan HR, Goodarzi P, Arjmand B. GMP-grade human fetal liver-derived mesenchymal stem cells for clinical transplantation. Stem Cells and Good Manufacturing Practices: Methods, Protocols, and Regulations. 2015:123-36.
2. Aghayan HR, Payab M, Mohamadi-Jahani F, Aghayan SS, **Larijani B**, Arjmand B. GMP-compliant production of human placenta-derived mesenchymal stem cells. Stem cells and good manufacturing practices: Methods, protocols, and regulations. 2021:213-25.

Clinical studies

Islet transplantation



> [Cell Tissue Bank](#). 2012 Dec;13(4):569-75. doi: 10.1007/s10561-011-9273-1. Epub 2011 Aug 5.

Establishing a cGMP pancreatic islet processing facility: the first experience in Iran

Bagher Larijani ¹, Babak Arjmand, Mahsa M Amoli, Ziliang Ao, Ali Jafarian, Mitra Mahdavi-Mazdah, Hossein Ghanaati, Reza Baradar-Jalili, Sasan Sharghi, Abbas Norouzi-Javidan, Hamid Reza Aghayan



In year 2005, the funding for establishing a current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) islet processing facility by Endocrinology and Metabolism Research Center was approved by Tehran University of Medical Sciences and first successful **clinical islet isolation** and **transplantation** was performed in September 2010. This article can provide valuable information for regional countries interested to establish similar facilities.

Larijani B, Arjmand B, Amoli MM, et al. Establishing a cGMP pancreatic islet processing facility: the first experience in Iran. *Cell Tissue Bank*. 2012;13(4):569-575. doi:10.1007/s10561-011-9273-1

Administration of Autologous Mesenchymal Stem Cell Transplantation for Treatment of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus

*Ensieh NASLI ESFAHANI¹, Ardeshir GHAVAMZADEH²,
Nika MOJAHEDYAZDI¹, SeyyedJafar HASHEMIAN¹, Kamran ALIMOGHADAM²,
Narjes AGHEL³, *Behrouz NIKBIN⁴, Bagher LARIJANI³*

- Twenty-three patients with **T1DM**, at 5 to 30 years of age and in both sexes, participated in this study. This trial consisted of two phases; In both phases, 100 milliliter of mixed **mesenchymal stem cells** and normal saline containing 2×10^6 autologous cells/kg for each patient was delivered to patients through cubital vein. All patients were evaluated at 1, 3, 6 and 9 months after the procedure.
- Mean levels of **HbA1c** and prescribed **insulin dosage** significantly **decreased** in comparison to the beginning of the study ($P < 0.05$). Therefore, transplantation of BM-MSC can be viewed as a promising, simple, safe, and efficient therapeutic modality for T1DM.

The effect of fetal liver-derived cell suspension allotransplantation on patients with diabetes: first year of follow-up

Maryam Ghodsi ¹, Ramin Heshmat, Mahsa Amoli, Abbas-Ali Keshtkar, Babak Arjmand, Hamidreza Aghayan, Parviz Hosseini, Ali Mohammad Sharifi, Bagher Larijani

- Fifty six patients with type one (n=30) and type two (n=26) diabetes, aged 10-58 years old (32.8 ± 16.3) were divided into the intervention and placebo group. The patients in the intervention group underwent **fetal liver-derived hematopoietic stem cell transplantation** while the patients in the placebo group received 5 ml of normal saline both via an intravenous route
- in this study, fetal liver-derived hematopoietic stem cell transplantation had **no significant effects** on glycemic control. The heterogeneity of our patients might account for the negative results.

> J Diabetes Metab Disord. 2015 Apr 22;14:33. doi: 10.1186/s40200-014-0126-x. eCollection 2015.

Evaluation of fetal cell transplantation safety in treatment of diabetes: a three-year follow-up

Ensieh Nasli-Esfahani¹, Maryam Ghodsi², Peyvand Amini², Abbas Ali Keshtkar³, Somayeh Amiri², Nika Mojahed-Yazdi², Ali Tootee³, Bagher Larijani⁴

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 26207222 PMCID: [PMC4511990](#) DOI: [10.1186/s40200-014-0126-x](#)

- 4 out of a total number of 56 patients who had undergone either fetal liver-derived cell suspension allotransplantation or placebo injection in 2007 (IRCT number: 138811071414 N10) were contacted and recruited for the evaluation of possible complications.
- There were **no life-threatening complications** nor significant differences in terms of evaluated diabetes complications (retinopathy, neuropathy, nephropathy and cardiovascular diseases) between the case and control groups. However, one case of meningioma was reported.

Application of Allotransplantation of Fetal Liver-derived Stem-Cells for Treatment of Type 1 Diabetes: a Single-arm, Phase 3 Clinical Trial

*Ali TOOTEE¹, Ensieh NASLI ESFAHANI¹, Maryam GHODSI¹, Farideh RAZI¹, Mohammadreza AMINI², *Bagher LARIJANI², *Ramin HESHMAT³*

- 72 patients with **recently diagnosed type 1 DM** were recruited and **fetal liver-derived cell suspension** was administered by the means of **intravenous injection**. Anthropometric measurements and clinical data such as body mass index, duration of the disease, daily insulin requirement were recorded as well as some of laboratory indicators of favorable therapeutic response (hemoglobin A1c, c-peptide) before and after the intervention at 0, 1, 3, 6 and 12 months following the intervention.
- Administration of fetal liver-derived fetal stem-cells resulted in **significant changes** in indicators of diabetes control in the patients. **Required daily insulin dose** and **HbA1c** showed significant changes, and c-peptide levels decreased significantly during the first three months of follow up period

The Effect of Fetal Liver-derived Cell Suspension Allotransplantation on Patients with Wolfram Syndrome: the First Year of Follow-up

*Ensieh NASLI ESFAHANI¹, Maryam GHODSI¹, Ali TOOTEE¹, Camelia RAMBOD¹,
Bagher LARIJANI², *Akbar SOLTANI³*

- Patients with type 1 diabetes (n=16) aged 6-30 years-old were included in the study. **Fetal liver-derived cell suspension** was transplanted by the means of **intravenous injection** patient.
- Findings of this study indicated that transplantation of fetal stem cells could, although **not permanently**, be an **effective** therapeutic intervention in patients with type 1 diabetes.

Insulin Independence after Fetal Liver-Derived Cell Suspension Allograft Transplantation in Patients with Type 1 Diabetes: A Pilot Study

*Maryam GHODSI¹, Farzaneh ABBASI¹, Ali TOOTEE¹, Ramin HESHMAT², Camelia RAMBOD¹, *Bagher LARIJANI³*

- Six patients with WS aged 23-34 (mean: 29.50, SD: 4.76) were recruited for the current phase 3 single-arm clinical trial. The participants underwent fetal liver-derived hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of transplantation, glycemic control indexes were measured at regular follow-up sessions.
- One patient (out of six) experienced a **6 months insulin-free** period with acceptable HbA1c levels. In another patient with history of recurrent **hypoglycemic attacks**, the frequency of bout of attacks remarkably **decreased**. It can be Concluded that Stem-cell therapy may represent a new method for treatment of patients with Wolfram Syndrome.

[Med J Islam Repub Iran](#). 2022; 36: 34.

PMCID: PMC9448473

Published online 2022 Apr 13. doi: [10.47176/mjiri.36.34](https://doi.org/10.47176/mjiri.36.34)

PMID: [36128298](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36128298/)

Clinical Outcomes of Fetal Stem Cell Transplantation in Type 1 Diabetes Are Related to Alternations to Different Lymphocyte Populations

[Ali Tootee](#), ¹ [Behrouz Nikbin](#), ² [Ensieh Nasli Esfahani](#), ¹ [Babak Arjmand](#), ³ [Hamidreza Aghayan](#), ³ [Mostafa Qorbani](#), ⁴

[Aziz Ghahari](#), ⁵ and [Bagher Larijani](#) ^{6,*}

In patients with diabetes, transplantation of stem cells increases C-peptide levels and induces insulin independence for some period. Today, this positive therapeutic outcome is widely attributed to the well-documented **immunomodulatory properties of stem cells**. The aim of this study was to report alternations in different lymphocyte populations in a stem cell clinical trial performed in our institute.

Our results demonstrated that transplantation of stem cells leads to **significant positive therapeutic** outcomes in one group of patients who showed totally **distinct patterns of alternation** to different groups of **lymphocytes**.

> J Diabetes Metab Disord. 2021 Jul 9;20(2):1179-1189. doi: 10.1007/s40200-021-00837-9. eCollection 2021 Dec.

Placenta derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells transplantation in Type 1 diabetes: preliminary report of phase 1 clinical trial

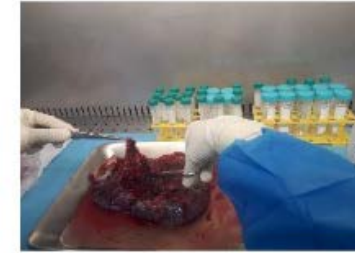
Sedigheh Madani¹, Aria Setudeh², Hamid Reza Aghayan³, Sepideh Alavi-Moghadam³, Mahtab Rouhifard⁴, Negar Rezaei⁴, Parastoo Rostami², Reihaneh Mohsenipour², Davoud Amirkashani⁵, Fatemeh Bandarian¹, Babak Arjmand³, Bagher Larijani⁶

To our knowledge; this is the first preliminary report of **placenta derived MSCs (PLMSCs) transplantation** in juvenile T1DM. This preliminary report of our phase I clinical trial demonstrated the short term **safety** of PLMSCs transplantation in juvenile T1DM.

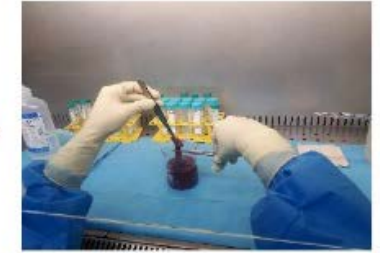
Removing placental membranes



Harvesting placental tissue



Washing the harvested tissues



MNCs isolation by ficoll gradient



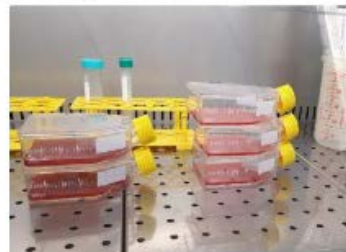
Enzymatic tissue digestion



Collecting minced tissues for digestion



Seeding MNCs into culture flasks




PLMSCs Expansion (subcultures)



Harvesting PLMSCs for master cell bank



- Iran has many achievements and a good potential in the field of cell therapy and regenerative medicine, especially for the treatment of diabetes. In 2018, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education issued a **national guideline** for the establishment and operation of cell therapy and regenerative medicine departments in public and private therapeutic centers. This guideline aims to provide a regulatory framework and quality standards for the clinical application of stem cells and other cell-based therapies.

اداره بیولوژیک اداره کل نظارت و ارزیابی دارو و مواد مخدر		
صفحه: ۱ از ۱۰	شماره سند: B-MA-R-01-01-A2	
تاریخ اعتبار: ۹۴/۴/۱	عنوان: ضوابط ثبت و ورود فرآورده های بیولوژیک - پیوست شماره ۲	



سازمان غذا و دارو

ضوابط ثبت و ورود فرآورده های بیولوژیک

پیوست شماره ۲ - ضوابط ثبت و ورود فرآورده های بافت، سلول و زن درمانی

Review | [Published: 05 November 2021](#)

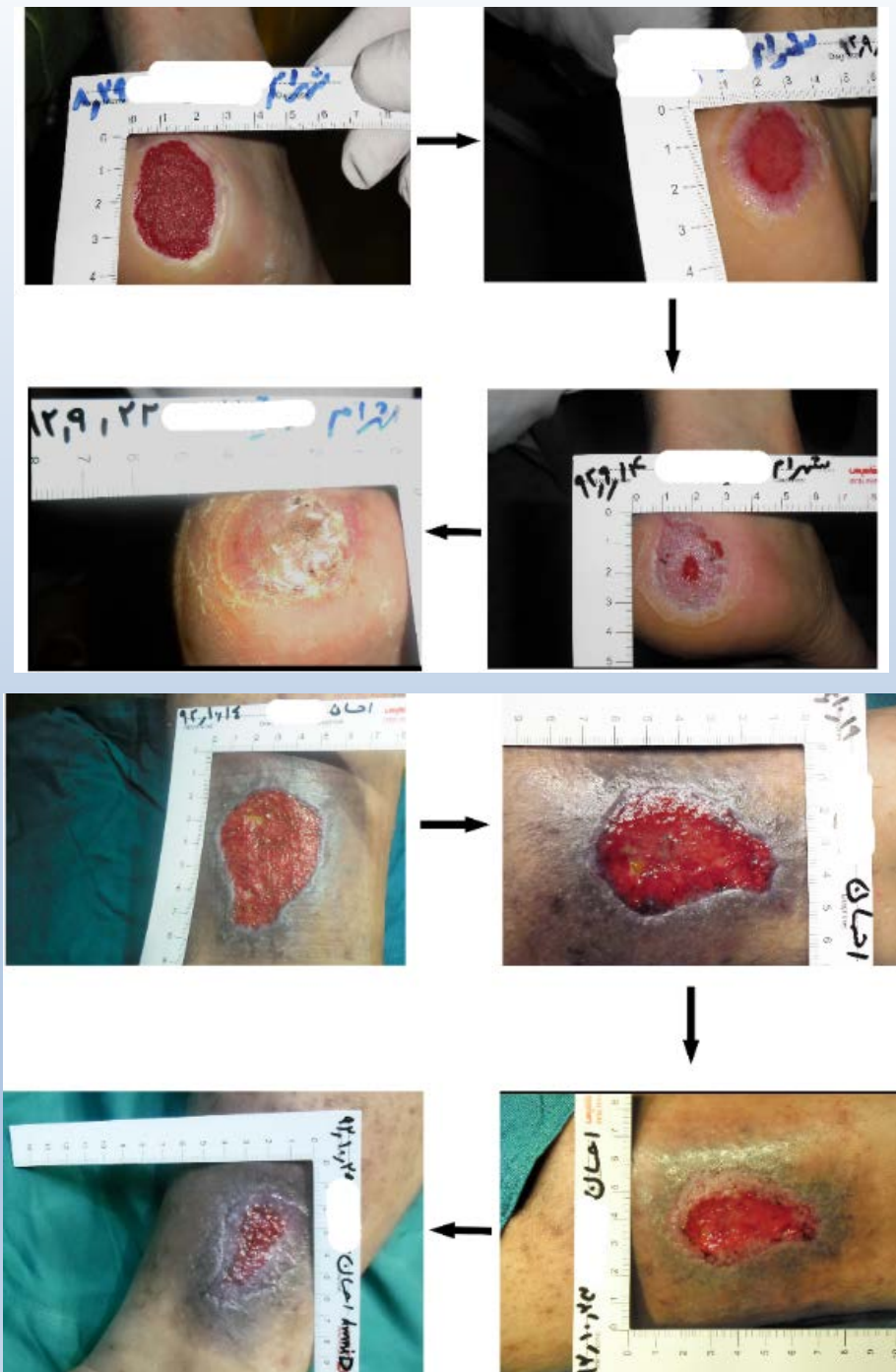
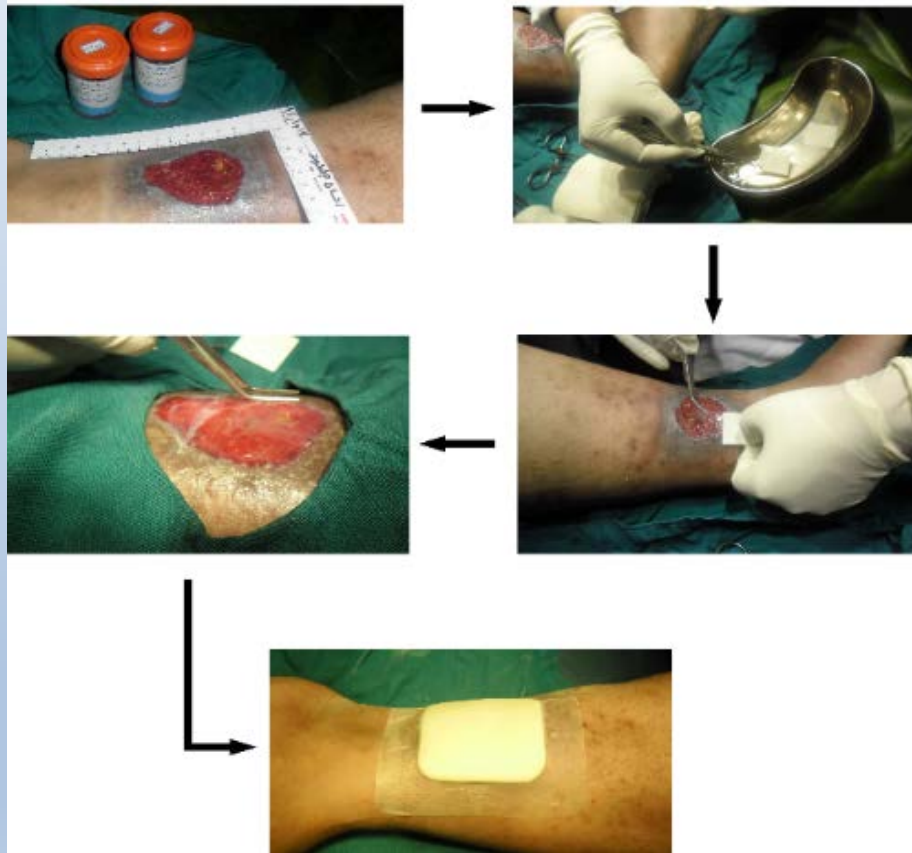
The Iranian National Guideline for Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine

[Javad Verdi](#), [Mahdi Shadnough](#), [Ghasem Janbabai](#), [Alireza Shoaee-Hassani](#) ✉, [Seyed Abdolreza Mortazavi-Tabatabaei](#), [Iman Seyhoun](#) & [Shiva Sharif](#)

[Regenerative Engineering and Translational Medicine](#) 8, 370–376 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

- Cell therapy is considered as a **promising** and **cost-effective solution** for the growing number of diabetic patients in Iran and worldwide, as it can potentially restore the function of the damaged pancreatic cells and regulate the blood glucose levels.
- Cell therapy is the **future of diabetes control**, as it offers a more **personalized** and **effective** treatment option than conventional therapies.

Our ongoing clinical trial: Investigating the effect of scaffold containing adipose tissue-derived stem cells in chronic wound healing in diabetic patients

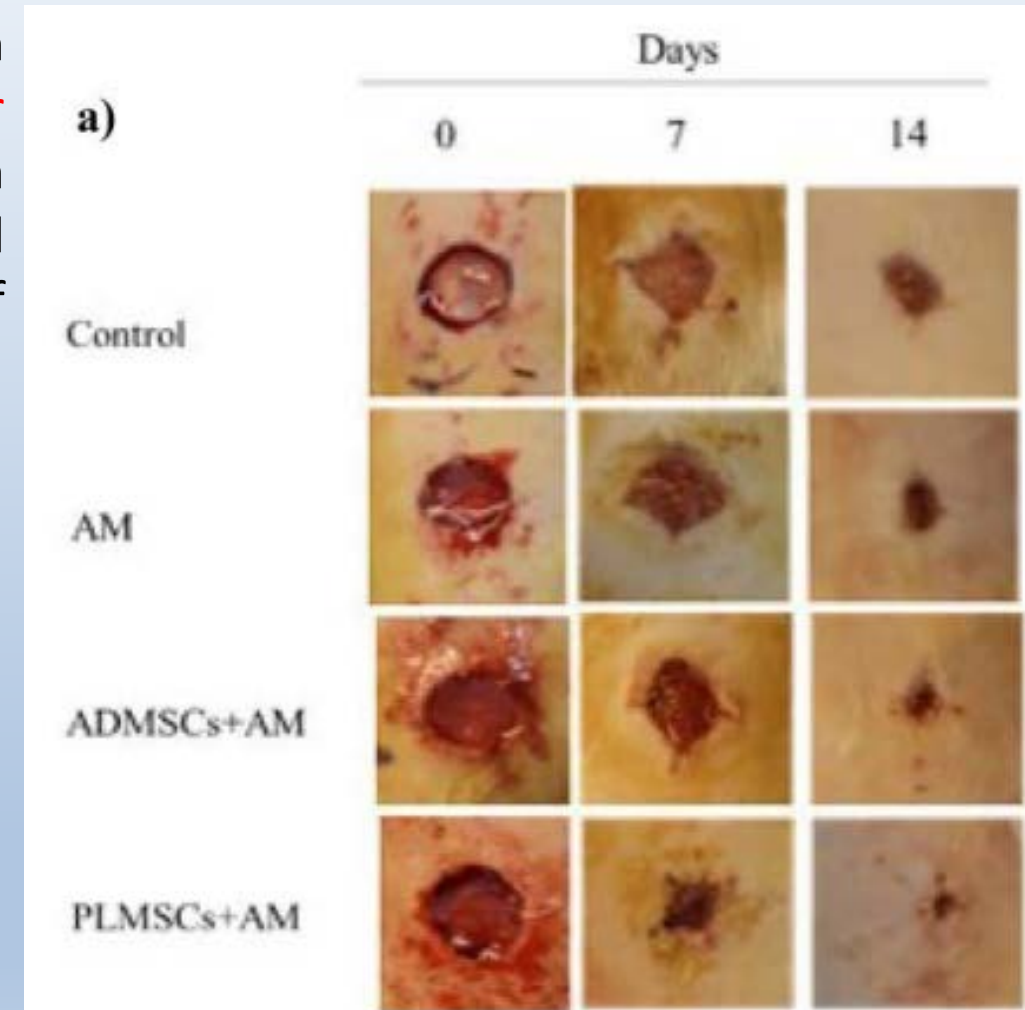
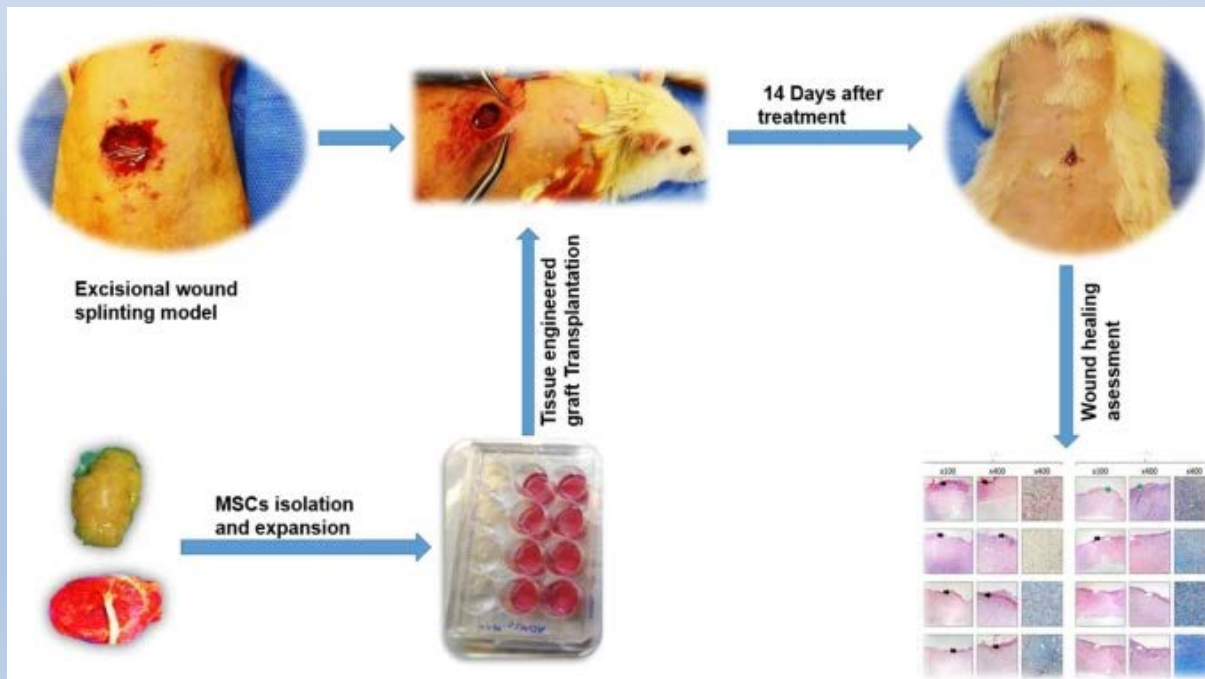


Unpublished data from our ongoing clinical trial which has been registered in Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials (IRCT)

Translational researches

MSCs' seeded amniotic membrane as a tissue-engineered dressing

The results of wound closure rate, re-epithelialization, angiogenesis, and collagen remodeling demonstrated that in comparison with the control groups, the **MSC-seeded acellular amniotic membrane (AAMs)** had **superior regenerative effects** in excisional wound animal model. We also found that PLMSCs had superior regenerative effects to ADMSc in the rat model of excisional wound.

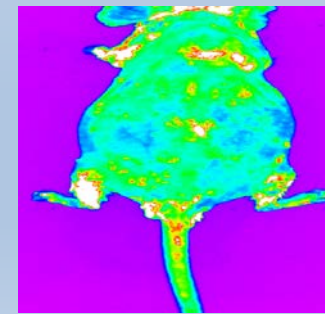
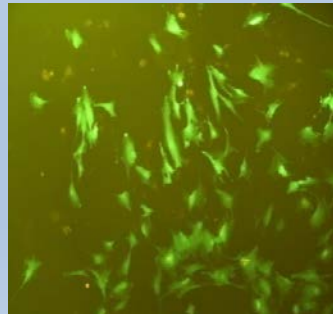
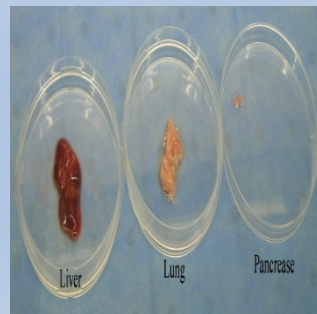


> [Front Endocrinol \(Lausanne\)](#). 2019 Nov 6;10:761. doi: 10.3389/fendo.2019.00761. eCollection 2019.

Co-transplantation of Human Fetal Mesenchymal and Hematopoietic Stem Cells in Type 1 Diabetic Mice Model

Babak Arjmand^{1 2}, Parisa Goodarzi³, Hamid Reza Aghayan¹, Moloud Payab⁴, Fakher Rahim⁵, Sepideh Alavi-Moghadam², Fereshteh Mohamadi-Jahani³, Bagher Larijani⁶

Based- on several studies human fetal mesenchymal and hematopoietic stem cells are ideal candidates for stem cell therapy. On the other hand, co-transplantation of them can improve their effects. Our results revealed that, **co-transplantation** of **MSCs** and **HSCs** has more therapeutic effects on T1D in comparison with MSCs transplantation. Also it was elucidated that, following cell transplantation, most of cells engrafted in the site of injury such as pancreas in T1D.



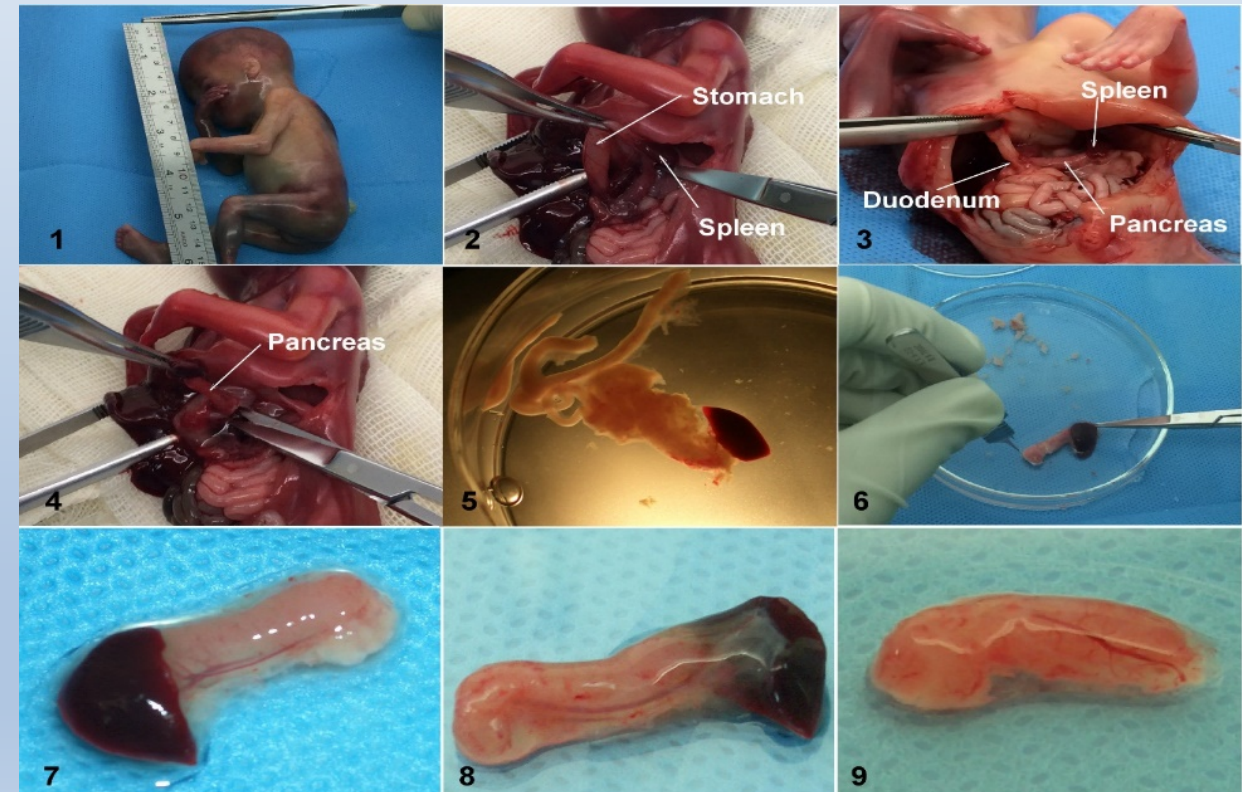
Original Article

A Simple and Cost-effective Method for Isolation and Expansion of Human Fetal Pancreas Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells

Bagher Larijani MD¹, Babak Arjmand MD PhD¹, Naser Ahmadbeigi PhD², Khadijeh Falahzadeh MSc³, Masoud Soleimani PhD⁴, Forough Azam Sayahpour MSc⁵, Hamid Reza Aghayan MD PhD Candidate¹

Previous studies have suggested mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) as a suitable source for cell replacement therapy in diabetes.

The results of this study demonstrated that our simple and inexpensive method could yield a **pure population of FPMSCs** that might be suitable for transplantation.



RESEARCH

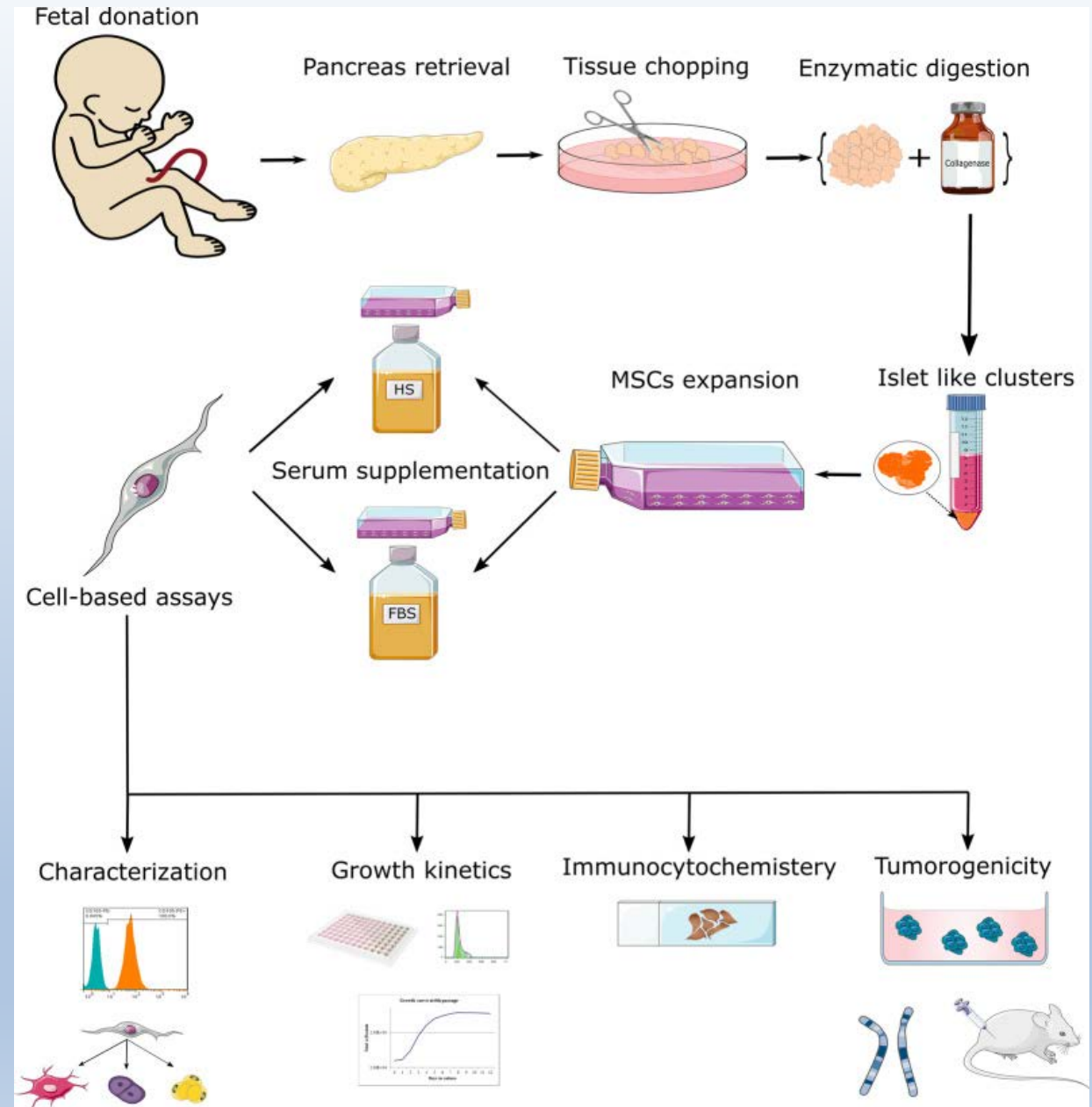
Open Access

Xeno-free protocol for GMP-compliant manufacturing of human fetal pancreas-derived mesenchymal stem cells

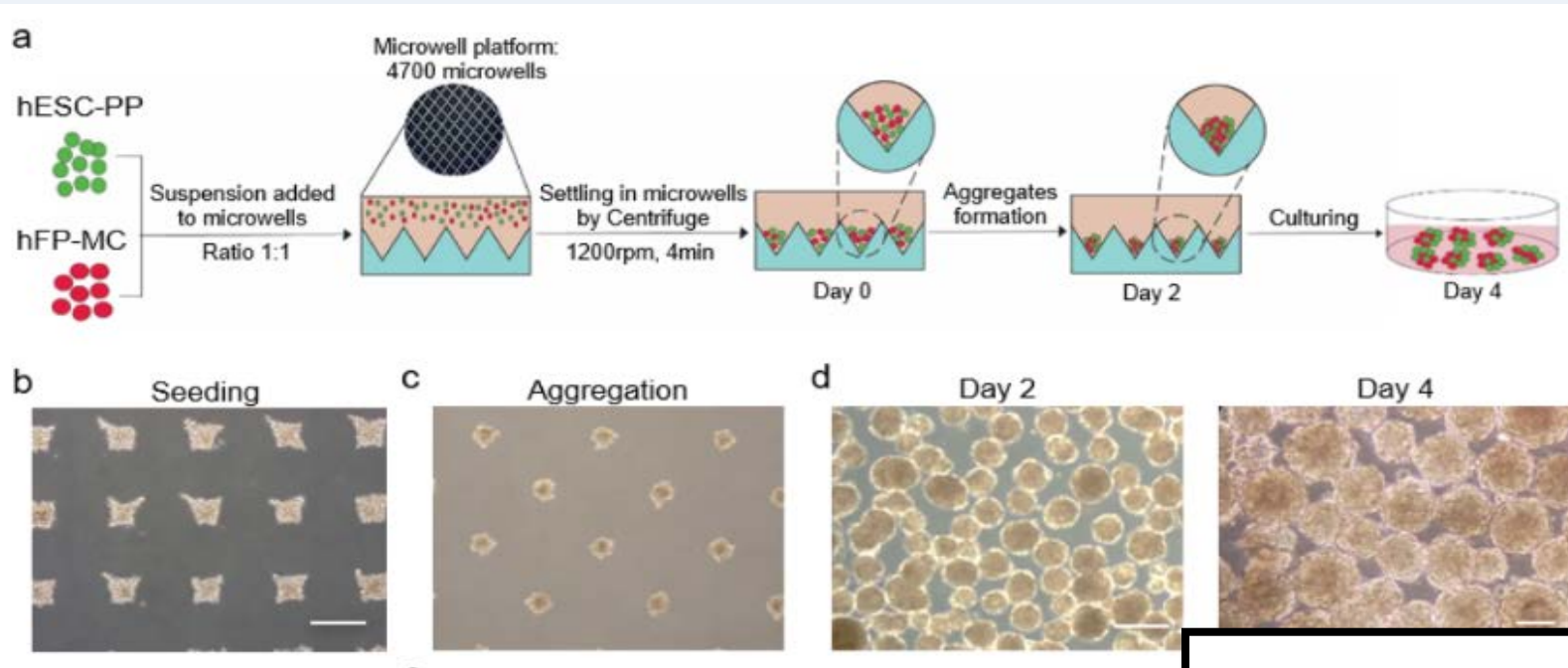
Zahra Jabbarpour^{1†}, Sajjad Aghayan^{1†}, Babak Arjmand², Khadijeh Fallahzadeh², Sepideh Alavi-Moghadam², Bagher Larijani³ and Hamid Reza Aghayan^{2*}



Our results demonstrated that **human serum** (HS) was a **better serum alternative** than fetal bovine serum (FBS) for in vitro expansion of fetal pancreatic-derived MSCs (FPMSCs). Compared with FBS, HS **increased FPMSCs' proliferation** rate and decreased their senescence. In conclusion, HS can effectively replace FBS for clinical-grade FPMSCs manufacturing.



ESC-derived endocrine progenitors



Pancreatic aggregates generated by forced aggregation through scalable AggreWell system showed similar features compared to the spheroids.

These aggregates, a combination of hFP-MCs and hESC-PPs, can be applied as an appropriate tool for **assessing endocrine-niche interactions** and **developmental processes** by **mimicking the pancreatic tissue**.

Stem Cell Reviews and Reports
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12015-021-10266-z>



Improved Differentiation of hESC-Derived Pancreatic Progenitors by Using Human Fetal Pancreatic Mesenchymal Cells in a Micro-scalable Three-Dimensional Co-culture System

Zahra Ghezelayagh^{1,2} · Mahsa Zabihi^{2,3} · Ibrahim Zarkesh⁴ · Carla A. C. Gonçalves⁵ · Michael Larsen⁵ · Newsha Hagh-parast² · Mohammad Pakzad² · Massoud Vosough⁶ · Babak Arjmand⁷ · Hossein Baharvand^{1,2} · Bagher Larijani⁸ · Anne Grapin-Botton^{5,9} · Hamid Reza Aghayan⁷ · Yaser Tahamtani^{2,10}

Conclusion

- Diabetes is a **common chronic disease** that has a **great burden** on society. Many treatments have been provided for diabetes, but none of them have been able to cure it.
- Regenerative medicine and cell therapy are emerging fields that offer new possibilities for the treatment of endocrine disorders.
- By using **stem cells**, **growth factors**, and **tissue engineering**, these approaches aim to **restore the function** of damaged or diseased endocrine organs, such as the thyroid, pancreas, or adrenal glands.
- Several studies have shown the potential of these methods to **improve the outcomes** of patients with **diabetes**, **osteoporosis**, **hypothyroidism**, and other conditions.
- There are still many **challenges** and **limitations** that need to be overcome, such as the **ethical** and **technical issues** involved in the isolation, manipulation, and transplantation of stem cells.
- Therefore, more research and collaboration are needed to advance the field of regenerative medicine and cell therapy in endocrinology and to **translate the findings from the bench to the bedside**.

Thanks for your attention

