



CyGenics opens new cord blood bank

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Stem cell researcher CyGenics has announced that its tissue bank CordLife has officially opened its second tissue processing and storage facility in Singapore.

The \$S1.7 million facility is next to the company's first facility at Camden Medical Centre, and has double the storage capacity of the first.

CyGenics said the new laboratory was expected to meet the region's increasing demand for cord blood banking services for the foreseeable future.

"As we expand in this region, this new facility will be the benchmark by which all future facilities will be measured," CyGenics chairman Chris Fullerton said in a statement.

"The opening of this new facility is a measure of our commitment to Singapore and to Asia.

"From Singapore as our tissue banking business base, we are expanding our operations throughout this region.

"With our stem cell expansion clinical trials starting soon in Australia, we look to soon being able to increase the value of our products and services to our customers."

The company said the new laboratory was also an essential step towards full American Association of Blood Banks accreditation.

Outside of the United States, so far only seven cord blood banks worldwide have achieved this accreditation.

CyGenics also announced that Cytomatrix LLC, the Boston-based research arm of the CyGenics group of companies, had secured an exclusive, worldwide licence agreement with the Brigham and Women's Hospital.

The hospital is a teaching hospital affiliated with the Harvard Medical School.

The licence agreement is for rights to a patent pending in the United States for a process that may significantly increase the number of T cells produced in the company's T cell production system.

"This is an important advance in our T cell production capabilities," CyGenics president Mark Pykett said.

"We believe the improved process may accelerate the development of our T cell production for a range of uses.

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