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What Are T Cells?

Small white blood cells that orchestrate and/or directly participate in the immune defenses. Also known as T lymphocytes, they are processed in the thymus and secrete lymphokines.


Stem cell biotechnology company, CyGenics Ltd, has announced that Cytomatrix LLC, the Boston-based research arm of the CyGenics group of companies, has secured an exclusive, worldwide license agreement with the Brigham and Womens Hospital (BWH), a teaching hospital affiliated with Harvard Medical School and a member of Partners HealthCare Organization. The license 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 companys T cell production system.

In 2000, Cytomatrix entered into a material transfer agreement with investigators at the BWH. Under this agreement, Cytomatrix provided its patented three-dimensional cell growth matrix and baseline T cell production technology to the Harvard hospital. Now, after four years of research, the BWH investigators have developed a process to enhance the T cell yield of the original growth system. The BWH filed a US patent on these enhancements in December 2003.

CyGenics Secures Exclusive Licence on Enhanced T Cell Production Technologies

About CyGenics Ltd

CyGenics Ltd is a biotechnology and immunotherapy company focused on the development and commercialization of stem cell-related products, services, applications and technologies. From its headquarters in Australia, CyGenics operates three divisions: Singapore-based CordLife (tissue banking services, in particular, cord blood banking) and Cell Sciences (consumable cell culture products), and Cytomatrix (cell therapeutics and technology development) based in the USA. CyGenics is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange.



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Cytomatrix has now secured the exclusive license to use these enhancements for therapeutic purposes. Cytomatrix has obtained this license for and in addition to reimbursement of patent costs undertaken by the BWH. As Cytomatrix develops the T cell production technology further, and achieves certain milestones, such as undertaking clinical trials or filing for US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval, the company will pay BWH other fees and, ultimately, a royalty on commercial sales.

This is an important advance in our T cell production capabilities," said Dr Mark Pykett, President, CyGenics. "We believe the improved process may accelerate the development of our T cell production for a range of uses. We are pleased that the use of Cytomatrix patented three-dimensional cell growth matrix by BWH investigators has led to this potentially powerful improvement, and we look to bringing this T cell production capability through the next stages of development."