

PROVIDING A LIFE LINE OF HOPE

20 September 2001, Singapore - Homegrown start-up company, Cordlife Pte Ltd announced today the company's official launch, at the Biomedical Asia 2001 conference, organized by the Economic Development Board and the National Science & Technology Board. Cordlife is a Singapore-based regenerative medicine and stem cell technology company, with autologous private cord blood banking services. "We aim to become the leading biotechnology service provider for cord blood banking in Asia, delivering value to consumers and premium returns to its shareholders," said Mr. Steven Fang, Founder Cordlife.

Creating the future of biomedicine

Cordlife works with physicians to collect the cord blood directly after delivery, and transports it to the company's affiliated or own accredited facilities, where it is tested, processed and stored. The isolated cells have the potential for becoming the source material for biomedicine in future cell therapy treatments. Cordlife focuses only on non-controversial sources of stem cells, such as from the umbilical cord blood, which would be normally discarded as medical waste.

Cord blood contains hematopoietic stem cells (HSC). HSCs have been used in transplant medicine for life-saving treatments, over the last 13 years. They have been used to treat a range of diseases, including leukemia, blood disorders, metabolic disorders, immunodeficiency ailments, and breast and other cancers. In addition, with recent advancements in technology, new applications for HSCs are expected. These include treatments for Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, heart disease, and organ replacement.

As an autologous private cord blood bank, Cordlife provides a number of advantages:

1. The autologous (self-use) approach guarantees a perfect match for the sampled individual, and a higher chance of a match for family members;
2. There is a lower risk of rejection after the transplant, and lower risk of infections
3. An individual's stored hematopoietic stem cells are always immediately available. This helps save time, and ultimately lives.
4. The collection of umbilical cord blood is painless, fast and risk-free for both mother and baby. This compares well to bone marrow collection, which is invasive, painful and time consuming (a typical bone marrow match takes 4 months).



Widening networks

Cordlife is rapidly expanding its regional presence, targeting South East Asian markets. Currently Cordlife is establishing a presence in China, Malaysia and Japan.

- China (Shenyang) – A joint agreement was signed with the Shenyang Xiehe Group Corporation on 20 August 2001, between Steven Fang (Founder Cordlife) and Prof. Chen Juyu (Chairman & President Shenyang Xiehe Group). Both parties will begin setting up private stem cell banking services, the first in the Shenyang province. This facility is scheduled to be operational by end 2001.
- Malaysia – With a representative office located in Kuala Lumpur, Cordlife is currently in discussion with a major healthcare provider and a laboratory service company on setting up private cord blood banking facilities in Malaysia's Biovalley.
- Japan – Cordlife has established a representative office in Tokyo, and is in negotiation with various institutional and laboratory companies for joint R&D collaborations and the setting up of an autologous cord blood processing and storage facilities.

In addition, Cordlife has a representative office in Switzerland, which seeks to identify technology companies in Europe for establishing strategic partnerships or collaborations.

Exploring beyond the boundaries

In order to drive new stem cell technology applications Cordlife has targeted technologies in the area of Tissue processing, Ex-vivo stem cell expansion and Application, for R&D funding, development, licensing or acquisition. The R&D projects aim to enable Cordlife to expand the amount of viable and storable yields of stem cells. This is done by linking up with Singapore R&D laboratories, and research organizations.

- Tissue processing – involves obtaining alternative sources of stem cells, for example through processing of the placenta and increasing the yield of cord blood collection.
- Ex-vivo stem cell expansion – targets the proliferation of HSC while maintaining the biomedical abilities of the cells, herby expanding the scope of applications.
- Applications – looks at downstream technologies offered to the healthcare community as a value added service.



About Cordlife

Cordlife Pte Ltd is a Singapore-based regenerative medicine and stem cell technology company with autologous private cord blood banking services. Currently, the company undertakes R&D projects with the objective of developing new cell amplification and application technology. With its headquarters in Singapore, Cordlife aims to become the leading biotechnology service provider, integrator and know how company for cord blood technology and banking services in Japan, China, Taiwan and South East Asia.

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