

MediCell News

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

Welcome to the First edition of MediCell News. Published twice yearly, this newsletter will keep you abreast of all recent news in cord blood storage and stem cell research worldwide. If you have an interesting story as to why you chose to have your child's cord blood stored, we would be delighted for you to share it with us at stemcell@medicare.ie

VIVAS HEALTH

Medicare Health & Living Ltd. have entered into partnership with VIVAS Health whereby VIVAS offer its members a contribution towards the cost of our stem cell preservation service. This new initiative was launched on 13 March 2008 and is available to all VIVAS members* signed up to our service

* Waiting periods may apply

For more information visit: www.vivashealth.ie or call 1850 71 66 66

UMBILICAL CORD STEM CELLS SLOW DOWN ALZHEIMER'S PROGRESSION IN MICE

Using human umbilical cord blood cells may improve the pathology associated with Alzheimer's disease, finds a new study on mice.

Researchers at the University of South Florida along with colleagues from other universities found that when human umbilical cord blood was infused into mice with Alzheimer's-like disease, the amount of amyloid- β and β -amyloid plaques — hallmarks of Alzheimer's pathology in the brain — was reduced by 62 percent. They also found that umbilical cord blood cell therapy also led to an 86-percent improvement in cerebral amyloid angiopathy (CAA), another hallmark of Alzheimer's disease.

"This study may open a door to a new field focusing on studying these molecular mechanisms in detail, and hopefully use them in the future not just for Alzheimer's disease, but for other neurological or systemic chronic diseases."

The study is published online in the peer-reviewed journal *Stem Cells and Development*.

Source: *TopNews.in Magazine*, posted on 27 March 2008

MEDICARE RECEIVES AUTHORISATION FROM THE IRISH MEDICINES BOARD

Medicare Health & Living Ltd are pleased to announce that as from 22 February 2008 they have been in receipt of Authorisation No. TE-013 from the Irish Medicines Board enabling them to practice as a Tissue Establishment authorised for Cord Blood Procurement.

As the first Irish owned company to achieve this authorisation, Medicare are fully compliant with EU Directives 2004/23/EC, 2006/17/EC & 2006/86/EC.

Medicare now intend to expand their services throughout Ireland by engaging those hospitals who are interested in providing this service to patients.

We would like to thank our valued Clients for their continued support and custom during this authorisation procedure and under our system of best practice will endeavour to continue to provide you with our excellent customer service.



INTERESTING LINKS

www.parentsguidecordblood.org

www.futurehealth.co.uk

www.irishhealth.com

'BUBBLE CHILD' RECEIVES CORD BLOOD TRANSPLANT

A 'bubble child' from Northern Ireland has received a cord blood transplant at a facility run by Prof Colin McGuckin in Newcastle, England, giving her a new immune system and a new chance of life.

Prof McGuckin and his team have been developing a treatment for 'bubble children' — children that have lost their immune systems.

Effectively they are confined within "walls of air", streaming from ceiling vents into the floor, so that on one side the child is inside the sterile area and on the other side the family can visit.

In more serious cases the child can be inside a room that only people who change into special clothes are allowed to enter, or in worst cases never go.

Prof McGuckin says "Twenty years ago, there was only one therapeutic use for stem cells. Now there are 75 conditions where such treatment is known to be useful,"

Prof McGuckin says that every parent should consider it. "There is nothing complicated about taking cord blood. It's simple and no risk to the mother or child."

"If you have a child and store the blood, that blood will be around for a long time to come, in case it is needed. If you do not store, then that child's options are more limited if they get sick."

Prof McGuckin, who hails from Ballymena, Northern Ireland, is Professor in Regenerative Medicine at Newcastle University.

Source: *Irish Medical Times*, posted on 29 February 2008



CORD BLOOD STEM CELLS AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the U.S. Approximately one million people die of cardiovascular disease annually despite medical intervention, with coronary artery disease claiming 50 percent of those lives. Although heart disease impacts an older population whose heart muscle, arteries and pumping function have deteriorated over time, heart ailments also strike the very young. According to the National Institutes of Health, congenital heart disease is responsible for more deaths in the first year of life than any other birth defect. To date, there is no proven "off-

the-shelf" therapy to repair or regenerate the heart after acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) or congestive heart failure. Because heart cells have a limited capacity to regenerate, researchers are exploring potential therapies using various stem cell sources to repair or replace damaged tissue including vascular endothelial cells, which form the inner lining of new blood vessels, and cardiomyocytes, the heart muscle cells that contract to pump blood into and out of the heart. The stem cells found in a newborn's umbilical cord blood are one type of stem cell hold-

ing great promise in cardiovascular repair. they are immunologically "younger" and appear to be more versatile. They also demonstrate an important characteristic with embryonic stem cells: they are able to differentiate into nearly all cell types in the body. However, cord blood stem cells offer important advantages:

- 1) they do this in a safe and controlled manner;
- 2) they have been used in clinical practice to treat humans for more than 20 years; and
- 3) there is no controversy involved in their collection.

Researchers are noting several positive observations in pre-clinical animal studies. Thus far, in animal models, cord blood stem cells have shown the ability to selectively migrate to injured cardiac tissue, improve vascular function and blood flow at the site of injury, and improve overall heart function.

Source:
www.medicalnewstoday.com,
20 February 2008.

MEDICARE HEALTH & LIVING

Medicare Health & Living is a customer focused family friendly company that rent and sell much needed equipment to hospitals and domestic clients nationwide. From homecare respiratory equipment treating sleep apnea to breastfeeding pumps for new mums Medicare is a trusted name to clients all over Ireland.

Medicare offers a range of Mother & Baby products, from Medela Breast pumps and accessories to Pulsar Obstetric Tens for Labour Pain relief.

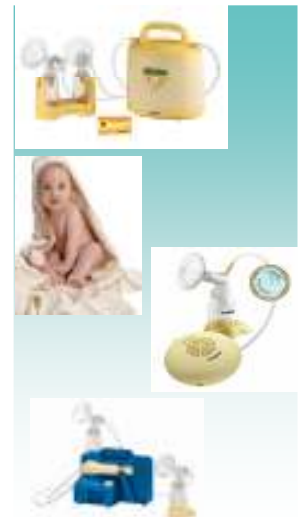
In our Umamma shop we stock an exclusive range of 100% organic cotton baby wear from Natura Pura, Maternity wear from BOOB and Bellybutton and an exciting new range of Baby travelling bags and accessories from GR8X.

For more information and a full list of our products visit:

www.medicare.ie



Medicare Health & Living
Umamma Store



U MAMMA SANCTURY (A MEDICARE HEALTH & LIVING COMPANY)

U Mamma specialises in caring for and nurturing expectant and new mums. We pride ourselves on our knowledge and expert training to support women during this special time of their lives.

Whether you are expecting a baby, or recovering from giving birth, U Mamma is a sanctuary designed with you in mind.

Opened in early 2007, our beautifully designed treatment rooms and specialised therapies provide

an effective and pleasurable way to care for your body, and nurture your soul during and after pregnancy.

Unlike many beauty clinics and spas, our therapists are fully qualified in therapeutic massage with extensive training in pregnancy & post-natal techniques. This means you can relax knowing you're in the hands of experts. Our pregnancy therapies focus on giving the mother-to-be

the special attention she needs, which helps to nurture the new life that is growing within. Massage by a certified pregnancy massage therapist offers many benefits. Our therapists have specific knowledge to alleviate pain, understand all stages of your pregnancy, and lend emotional support

For more information and a list of our treatments visit:

www.umamma.ie



U Mamma Treatment Room

