

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Stem Cell Centre Chief Wins Major International Science Award

Monday 17 September, 2007. Melbourne, Australia:

On Sunday 16 September in Boston in the United States, Professor Livesey was awarded the prestigious George W Hyatt Memorial Award by the American Association of Tissue Banks, for his outstanding contribution to scientific research in tissue engineering.

Professor Stephen Livesey, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Stem Cell Centre, was honored at the 31st Annual Meeting of the Association, for his discovery and development of AlloDerm[®], a product made from donated human tissue that has been used in more than a million surgical procedures to date, most notably with severe burns patients.

“It is wonderful news when Australian scientists are recognised as world-leaders in medical research,” said Professor Hugh Niall, Board member of the Australian Stem Cell Centre.

“Stephen’s work has helped so many people heal from serious burns, from injury and trauma or the process of disfiguring diseases. AlloDerm[®] is a fabulous clinical outcome of creative and truly innovative medical research by an inspired Australian scientist.”

AlloDerm[®], originally developed by Professor Livesey in 1994 was developed for the treatment of severe burns. Since then, AlloDerm[®]’s versatility has seen it applied to dental surgery, hernia repair, abdominal wall repair and major trauma patients with new applications continuing to arise. AlloDerm[®] is distributed worldwide.

The George W Hyatt Award is in memory of Naval Commander George W Hyatt, an orthopedic surgeon who established the first tissue bank and marrow donor program in the world.

LifeCell, a profitable listed US biotech, was established in 1986 by Professor Livesey and colleagues at the University of Texas to market a unique tissue preservation technique that he had pioneered that would become a vital component in donor tissue allografts (the transplantation of tissues from a donor to a patient).

AlloDerm[®] is an acellular dermal matrix (or scaffold) derived from donated human skin tissue. The product is grafted onto an existing traumatised or

disease effected tissue such as skin, for example. Circulating stem cells are attracted to and in time bind to the matrix in stages, the stem cells then develop and change into the local tissue specific cell types and finally the tissues upon which the matrix is grafted regenerates and repairs.

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For further information on AlloDerm[®] go to www.lifecell.com/products/96/

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Background

The **Australian Stem Cell Centre** is Australia's Biotechnology Centre of Excellence. The Centre has partnered with nine leading Australian universities and research institutions and brings together a critical mass of outstanding Australian stem cell research that is internationally competitive and recognised.

The Centre's principal objective is to integrate a national multi-institutional research and discovery program to develop treatments for serious disease through the application of stem cells and related technologies.

The Australian Stem Cell Centre is funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments.

Professor Livesey joined the ASCC in 2003 as Chief Scientific Officer. He was appointed Chief Executive Officer in June 2006.