

PRESS RELEASE

Wibi+Works, LLC, an emerging biotechnology company focused on advancing stem cell-based therapies that treat inflammation, has been awarded a \$400,000 Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant will be used to fund the development of its adult allogeneic (non-self) mesenchymal stem cell-based therapy for the anti-inflammatory treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. The project will be completed in collaboration with Drs. Gary Firestein and Monica Guma at the University California San Diego.

The founder of Wibi+Works, LLC, Dr. Aline Betancourt, has developed a patent-pending technology that results in uniform, anti-inflammatory mesenchymal stem cell products (*MSC2*) that will be used to treat chronic states of increased inflammation such as rheumatoid arthritis.

“With a grant at the Federal level from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin (NIAMS) of NIH, we are now poised to move forward with our new technology to develop anti-inflammatory *MSC2* cells for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and other diseases of inflammation. This targeted therapy also means that the patient’s immune system will not be compromised nor will they have to spend a lifetime on immune suppressive regimens,” said Aline Betancourt, Ph.D., Founder and CSO of Wibi+Works, LLC. It is currently estimated that rheumatoid arthritis (RA) affects over 1.5 million adults in the United States. RA has a billion dollar impact on the workforce and results in a significantly diminished quality of life for its victims.

The team of experts at Wibi+Works, LLC completed tests on their cell products in several pre-clinical models of disease including diabetic peripheral neuropathy and acute lung injury, with additional studies in rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis models underway. The Company’s vision is to advance its new stem cell technology for clinical use. This technology uses cues from nature to activate the cells into a specific pro- (*MSC1*) or anti-inflammatory (*MSC2*) program. The anti-inflammatory *MSC2*, which will be tested in RA, are expected to take the place of common NSAIDs and other anti-inflammatories. Rather than being a regenerative stem cell product that becomes part of the healed tissue, these cell products are designed to be used as a short-term therapy when needed to manage localized inflammation.

ABOUT WIBI+WORKS

Wibi+Works, LLC is a privately held biotechnology company leading the development of new and improved adult mesenchymal stem cell-based therapeutics that treat human diseases associated with inflammation.



wibi + works

Creative science. Intelligent solutions.