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BTM use in Diabetes Islet Cell Transplantation Study

PolyNovo Limited is pleased to announce it is partnering with Beta Cell Technologies' Professor Toby Coates and A/Professor John Greenwood AM to develop alternatives for Islet Cell Transplantation to aid diabetes management.

Beta Islet cells are the cells that make the hormone insulin. In type 1 (juvenile onset) diabetes these cells are damaged and insulin production is impaired or absent. The current treatment/management offered to severely affected patients with type 1 diabetes include lifelong insulin injections, or in selected cases human islet cell transplantation. Islet cell transplantation involves transplanting islet cells from an organ donor into the liver of the recipient who has severe hypoglycaemic unawareness. A thirty pig study utilising our Biodegradable Temporizing Matrix (BTM) as an alternative method for islet transplantation into the dermis (skin) rather than the liver will commence in September 2016. The BTM shows promise due to the high vascularity achieved when integrated and the safety profile of the polymer. If successful, insulin injection may no longer be required for people having this implant. Type 1 diabetes affects over 120,000 Australians and is a major cause of death and disability in young Australians. This research is supported by a grant from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) in the USA.

About Professor Toby Coates

Toby Coates is a clinician-scientist and renal transplant nephrologist in the Central Northern Adelaide Renal and Transplantation Service at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Clinical Professor in Medicine at the University of Adelaide. He is currently the Director of South Australia's Centre for Islet Transplantation and the Head of Kidney and Pancreas Islet Transplantation at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In 2013 he was the lead clinical investigator in the $59 million Collaborative Research Centre for Cell Therapy Manufacturing to manufacture new technologies to support islet transplantation. In June 2016 he received JDRF funding, of US$742,000 over two years, for development of alternative sites for islet transplantation and was appointed to the International JDRF Islet Encapsulation Consortium.

About Associate Professor John Greenwood AM

John Greenwood is a Burns and Plastic Surgeon; Director, Adult Burns Service, Royal Adelaide Hospital Director, Skin Engineering Laboratory, Hanson Institute; Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Adelaide; 2016 South Australian of the Year; 2016 Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. John has been the co-developer of the BTM product and clinical advisor to PolyNovo for many years.

About PolyNovo

PolyNovo is a Melbourne-based medical device company that designs, develops and manufactures solutions using its patented NovoSorb™ biodegradable polymer technology. Our current product range/development covers BTM (dermal regeneration), Breast Sling, Hernia, and Orthopaedic applications. For further information and market presentations please visit: **www.PolyNovo.com.au**

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