Future looks bright for stem cell research and therapy

Ottawa, Ontario – Stem cell research and therapy have just begun to show their potential in clinical deliverables reports a new study published in the *Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology* (*CJPP*). The review article presents a history of stem cell research and gives a perspective of the bright future of stem cell research and therapy.

“Given the pace of discovery and the imagination it evokes, it is not surprising that huge expectations of superhero proportions have grown around the field of stem cell research. Stem cell research is at near-exponential rates of growth”, says lead author Dr. Keith R. Brunt. “Although many definitive works have been established, there is still room for young scientists to make significant advances.”

With these advances on the horizon, the number of clinical trials could grow at an unprecedented rate. However, there are also concerns as to whether there are now enough scientists with appropriate experience to reach future research goals; there must be significant long-term planning and a focus on recruiting, retaining, and encouraging young scientists from clinical and basic science backgrounds.

There is a potential to use stem cell therapy in traumatic injury, type I diabetes, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson’s disease, or even multiple sclerosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Additionally, the knowledge that stem cells can be harvested from adults addresses ethical concerns that have long dogged this area of research.

The study “Stem cells and regenerative medicine – future perspectives” appears in the March issue of *CJPP*, which is a Special Issue on Stem Cells in Regenerative Medicine. This Special Issue features invited articles dedicated to recent developments in the field of stem cells and tissue regeneration authored by leading researchers across the world.

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