



LOUISIANA / MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER

In The News

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Our Recent Headlines

Presentation by Dr. Gabriel Lasala with TCA Cellular Therapy



U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given TCA Cellular Therapy, LLC (TCA-CT) the green light to conduct their Phase I adult stem cell clinical trials to treat Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease). This is the second FDA-approved protocol for the treatment of ALS using stem cells in the country; and the first using adult stem cells from the same patient. The aim of the Phase I study will assess safety.

TCA-CT currently has five FDA cardiovascular trials in progress utilizing adult stem cells, which has produced no adverse effects to date.

Medical Director and adult stem cell researcher, Gabriel Lasala, MD will discuss the upcoming trial at the local March ALS support group meetings in Covington on March 1 at St. Tammany Parish Hospital in the Abita Room located at 1202 S. Tyler Stret, Baton Rouge on March 15 at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital in Auditorium B located at 5000 Hennessy Blvd and New Orleans on March 16 at the Brent House

Conference Room, Tyrone Room on second floor located at 1514 Jefferson Highway in Metairie. All three meetings start at 6:30PM.

Dr. Lasala has been involved with research since 1981. As a practicing cardiologist, Lasala's interest in stem cells peaked when he learned of a successful case study performed by a group of German doctors several years ago treating heart conditions using stem cells. Dr. Lasala started to search for a world expert in stem cells. After trips to Germany, China and Chile, Dr Lasala had a meeting with Jose Minguell, PhD in Chile. Dr Lasala convinced him to come live in the United States and work for TCA-CT. At this time the United States did not have the level of expertise in stem cell research that Lasala was looking for.

Dr. Minguell, Ph.D. and a cell biologist had been researching adult stem cells for many years, and was until 2006, the director of the department of Cellular Therapy at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago. Dr. Lasala's recruitment of Dr. Minguell was necessary in order to jump start adult stem cell research in the United States.

When Dr. Minguell arrived in Covington, he brought with him his US patent for isolating adult stem cells from bone marrow. The patent coupled with his knowledge of how to multiply the adult stem cells and utilize them in various medical applications, including cardiovascular, neurological, muscular, and skeletal have positioned this small privately-funded company into an emerging leader in adult stem cell therapies.

<http://www.alsalouisiana.org/>

<http://www.tcacellulartherapy.com>