



## **Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine Centres in Canada and UK Collaborating to Accelerate Commercialization of New Medicines for Patients**

May 31, 2013 (Toronto and London, UK) – The [Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine](#) (CCRM) and [the Cell Therapy Catapult](#), government-funded translation centres in Canada and the UK respectively, have signed a collaboration agreement solidifying their intent to work together. The partners will support the development and commercialization of cell therapy and regenerative medicine opportunities from the high impact technological discoveries emerging in their respective countries.

Under the terms of their agreement, CCRM and the Cell Therapy Catapult plan to work together on suitable R&D projects, clinical trials, standardization and regulatory efforts, as well as initiatives such as training. The governments in Canada and the UK have identified the field of cell therapy and regenerative medicine for its potential ability to increase each nation's health and wealth. CCRM and the Cell Therapy Catapult are centres of excellence that are well aligned to deliver on this potential.

"CCRM and the Cell Therapy Catapult are both committed to moving potential therapeutic approaches from early stage research to the marketplace and there are many good arguments for combining our strengths and resources, and doing this together," explains Dr. Michael May, CEO of CCRM. "If we can commercialize research faster and more effectively by partnering, then everyone benefits – especially the patient."

Keith Thompson, CEO of the Cell Therapy Catapult, said "We are delighted to have formed this important international link with CCRM, which provides us with access to a strong network of academics, companies and entrepreneurs in Canada. The anticipated exchange of ideas and technological expertise, as well as collaborative activity, will be of great benefit to patients and the cell therapy industries in both countries."

### **About the Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM)**

[CCRM](#), a Canadian not-for-profit organization funded by the Government of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence program and six academic partners, supports the development of technologies that accelerate the commercialization of stem cell- and biomaterials-based technologies and therapies. A network of academics, industry and entrepreneurs, CCRM aims to translate scientific discoveries into marketable products for patients. CCRM launched in Toronto's Discovery District on June 14, 2011. CCRM is hosted by the University of Toronto.

### **About the Cell Therapy Catapult**

The Cell Therapy Catapult is a centre of translational excellence for regenerative medicine. Its vision is for the UK to be a global leader in the development, delivery and commercialisation of cell therapy, making it a location for business start-up and growth. Based in London at Guy's Hospital, the centre plans to take products into early clinical trials, providing clinical, technical, manufacturing and regulatory expertise and access to the NHS. There will be a focus on collaboration and lowering barriers to investment and funding, and operations will grow rapidly throughout 2013. The global cell therapy industry was estimated to have an turnover of \$1bn in 2011 and is estimated to grow to \$5bn by 2014 (Mason *Regen Med* 5(3) 2010, Mason *Regen Med* 6(3) 2011). For more information please go to [ct.catapult.org.uk](http://ct.catapult.org.uk)

### **About Catapults**

Catapult centres are being established by the Technology Strategy Board, as a new addition to its range of programmes to stimulate innovation. They are places where the best of the UK's innovative businesses and researchers work together to bring new products and services more quickly to commercialisation. Focusing on areas with great market potential, Catapults will open up global opportunities for the UK and generate economic growth for the future. In addition to the Cell Therapy Catapult, catapults for High Value Manufacturing, Offshore Renewable Energy, Satellite Applications, the Connected Digital Economy, Future Cities and Transport Systems are being established.

### **About the Technology Strategy Board**

The Technology Strategy Board is the UK's innovation agency. Its goal is to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit [www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org).

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#### **Technology Strategy Board (for Catapult programme)**

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