

PRESS RELEASE

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SpinalCyte, LLC Receives U.S. Patent for Spinal Disc Regeneration

HOUSTON--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))-- **SpinalCyte, LLC**, a spinal technology company focused on autologous regrowth of the spinal disc nucleus using human dermal fibroblasts, announced today the U.S. Patent Office issued Patent # 8,298,560 "Methods and Compositions For Repair Of Cartilage Using An In Vivo Bioreactor" to regrow the spinal disc. The allowed claims include the use of human dermal fibroblasts from the patient's own body, to regrow the nucleus of the spinal disc in vivo. SpinalCyte has successfully completed its first round of animal studies with Howard An, M.D. at Rush University. Using intermittent hydrostatic pressure, the dermal cells have successfully differentiated into cartilage type cells necessary to regrow the nucleus pulposus. The patent describes various compositions and constructs for scaffolding used to transfer pressure from the vertebra to the nucleus pulposus.

The nucleus pulposus is a gelatinous material that acts as a cushion or shock absorber to the spinal column. It functions to distribute hydraulic pressure in all directions within each disc under compressive loads. The nucleus pulposus consists of chondrocytes, collagenfibrils, and proteoglycan aggregates.

"This milestone is another unique achievement and provides for additional protection for our technology," said Pete O'Heeron, Chief Executive Officer. "We are excited about the progress we are making on this technology and the benefit it will ultimately bring the patient by regrowing their disc, using their own cells."

Nucleus replacement is one of the biggest opportunities in the spinal surgery arena.

About SpinalCyte, LLC

Based in Houston, Texas, SpinalCyte, LLC is a spinal technology company founded in 2007 for the purpose of developing an innovative and autologous solution for nucleus replacement technology using human dermal fibroblasts. The goal of SpinalCyte is to develop a nucleus regrowth technology using autologous dermal cells harvested from the patient. To date, SpinalCyte has been funded entirely by angel investors.

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