

Preface

Regenerative Medicine in Jordan

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Recently Jordan University (JU) has approved the establishment and support of a regenerative medicine center under the name of Cell Therapy Center (CTC). JU has budgeted for it and the CTC is expected to be housed in a building especially built for that purpose. Once established, it will be the first of its kind in the country and perhaps the first in any Arab country. The CTC is designed to house multi-function units: both for clinical grade tissue products and for research purposes. It has ample space to accommodate scientists from various fields of biological, medical, pharmaceutical and chemical sciences.

The aim of the CTC is set to bring Jordan in line with the latest and most advanced field of stem cell research. The target is to generate cells and cell products for therapeutic purposes to treat conditions which are currently do not have treatment or have an unsatisfactory treatment.

The step taken by JU is a timely and welcomed one. It reflects forward and positive thinking on behalf of the university leadership. It definitely carries the research of JU to a sophisticated and advanced level with direct application and benefit to patients.

The coming years will witness a huge increase in the number of aging population in Jordan. This population will cause a tremendous burden on the health care system and deserve a special attention or else the whole health care budget will be overstretched leading to deterioration of care and dissatisfaction among the people.

It is well known that people above the age of 65 years consume most of the health budget even when their numbers are small. Frequently, these people suffer from diseases of the aged that include cardiovascular, metabolic, degenerative, malignant and neurological diseases. CTC will respond to the needs of these people. Regenerative medicine will be able to generate cells or cell products that may cure many of these diseases. It will be able to tissue engineer replacement for many organs which currently have no donors. It will be able to generate self or non-self cell lines that can be applied for the needs of the individual. It will revolutionize our thinking of how well should an aged person live. It will improve the quality of life for those who age that they can have functionally productive life, a life that is not that different from a much younger person.

A surge of research has been seen in the world on stem cell and tissue engineering work.

I feel that this is the future of medicine. The hopes are so high that stem cells will be able to solve so many of our health problems in a fashion different from the conventional one; the use of drugs.

I welcome the establishment of the CTC by JU and commend this decision as a positive and forward thinking step.

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