#### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

# **WORKING TOWARDS A CURE**



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#### COI NONE



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#### **TYPE 1 VS. TYPE 2 DIABETES**





# INSULIN IS PRODUCED IN THE PANCREAS



#### PANCREATIC ISLETS: SOURCE OF HORMONE PRODUCING CELLS





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#### PANCREATIC ISLETS: SOURCE OF HORMONE PRODUCING CELLS



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#### **TYPE 1 VS. TYPE 2 DIABETES**





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# TRADITIONAL THERAPIES FOR DIABETES

#### TYPE 2 (insulin resistance):

Stimulate insulin secretion

Decrease glucose release from liver/absorption from intestine

Improve insulin sensitivity (glucose uptake)

Decrease insulin resistance (muscle and fat)

Increase glucose excretion

#### TYPE 1 (autoimmune disease):

Exogenous insulin treatment Immunotherapies Beta cell replacement





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#### **ISLET TRANSPLANTATION AS A THERAPY**



Naftanel et al., 2004



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# **ISLET TRANSPLANTATION AS A THERAPY**

#### Recipients remain insulin independent for >5 years

- Reduced hypoglycemic episodes
- Improved quality of life

#### Challenges:

- Multiple donors for each patient
- Substantial graft failure
- Limited donor tissue
- Immunosuppression required



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#### CAN WE MAKE INSULIN-PRODUCING CELLS FROM STEM CELLS?





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## **STEM CELLS (SHORT DIGRESSION)**

Human Embryonic Stem (ES) Cell Lines

- Derived from early stage human embryo
- Line is established and frozen for future use
- Only handful of lines used today

Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (IPS Cell lines)

- Derived from any tissue in the body (skin, blood, etc)
- Line is established and frozen for future use
- Reprogrammed to any cell in the body



Trends in Neurosciences 2013 36385-395DOI: (10.1016/j.tins.2013.03.006)



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# Making pancreatic islet cells in complicated



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#### **CONSERVATION BETWEEN MICE AND MEN**





#### LEARNING FROM NORMAL FETAL DEVELOPMENT



#### Human stem cell differentiation





#### CAN WE USE INSULIN CELLS MADE IN A DISH?



#### CAN WE USE INSULIN CELLS MADE IN A DISH?



> 20 years of research







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# **VERTEX CLINICAL TRIAL**

# The New York Times



#### A Cure for Type 1 Diabetes? For One Man, It Seems to Have Worked.

#### Promising study, but with caveats:

- Only 1 Person
- 90 days
- Required immune suppression
- Status of implanted cells unknown
- Not peer-reviewed
- Expensive
- Not enough cells



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# **Cell Stem Cell**

**Clinical and Translational Report** 

Implanted pluripotent stem-cell-derived pancreatic endoderm cells secrete glucose-responsive Cpeptide in patients with type 1 diabetes

#### Authors

Adam Ramzy, David M. Thompson, Kirsten A. Ward-Hartstonge, ..., Garth L. Warnock, Megan K. Levings, Timothy J. Kieffer



#### Cell Reports Medicine

Article

Insulin expression and C-peptide in type 1 diabetes subjects implanted with stem cell-derived pancreatic endoderm cells in an encapsulation device

#### **Authors**

A.M. James Shapiro, David Thompson, Thomas W. Donner, ..., Evert J. Kroon, Kevin A. D'Amour, Howard L. Foyt

January/February 2022



#### **VIACYTE TRIAL: TRANSPLANT ISLET PROGENITOR CELLS**





Blood vessels grow along the device for gas and nutrient exchange

#### 2-4 devices per patient



# VIACYTE MULTI-CENTER TRIAL

Transplanted pancreatic progenitor cells

Immune suppression

Two trial sites (15 and 17 patients)

Two-thirds dropped out due to adverse reactions (surgery and immune suppression)

Good news:

- No tumor formation
- Meal responsive insulin secretion
- Good blood supply

Relatively safe





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#### **VIACYTE MULTI-CENTER TRIAL**



Not so good news:

- None of the patients lowered their insulin doses or achieved insulin independence
- Low circulating C-peptide (would need to increase 100X)
- Very few insulin-expressing cells; mostly glucagon
- Cell death





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Highly efficient progenitor cell generation Less time under GMP conditions Less control of differentiation

>~25 days

Inefficient cell generation More time under GMP conditions More control of differentiation





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## **BOTTOM LINE**

Stem cell derived islet cell therapies are promising Relatively Safe

But more research is required

Better control of cell differentiation

Move away from systemic immune suppression

Increase cell survival post transplantation



#### **BEST OPTIONS TODAY**



![](_page_30_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_4.jpeg)

## FUTURE OPTIONS: BDC RESEARCH DIVISION

- Improve generation of islet clusters in a dish (Sussel and Russ)
- Engineer "immuno-protected beta cells" (Russ, Nakayama, Michels)
- Improve beta cell graft survival post-transplant (Russ and Sussel)

# Complimentary Studies:

Predict autoimmune destruction: Nakayama, Davidson, Smith, Yu Block the immune response: Nakayama, Friedman, Jacobelli, Michels

![](_page_31_Picture_6.jpeg)

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![](_page_31_Picture_9.jpeg)

#### **FUTURE OPTIONS: BDC RESEARCH DIVISION**

![](_page_32_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_32_Picture_6.jpeg)

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www.barbaradaviscenter.org

![](_page_32_Picture_9.jpeg)

# **THANK YOU!**

# Comments? Questions?

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![](_page_33_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_33_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_0.jpeg)