

WHAT HAS ISRAEL DONE FOR THE WORLD LATELY?

Health:

Israeli therapy uses adult stem cells to treat Parkinson's Disease:

Brainstorm Cell Therapeutics has developed a novel stem cell therapy to treat Parkinson's Disease - using a patient's own bone marrow stem cells to produce the missing chemical that enables restoration of motor movement. The process - which successfully alleviated symptoms of Parkinson's in rats - will be tested on monkeys next year, with human clinical trials scheduled for the following year.

Israeli researchers generate cancer-killing molecules:

Dr. Angel Porgador of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Dr. Ofer Mandelboim of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem are generating cancer-killing molecules that will recognize cancerous cells and target them aggressively, while not affecting normal cells. These cutting-edge cancer fighters - called Natural Killer cells are among the first cells of the immune response that arrive at the site of infection or inflammation, and their major function is to kill their target cells. The researchers believe that harnessing them will bypass the problematic side-effect of current chemotherapy drugs, which, though effective in killing cancer cells, often also destroy normal tissues.

Israeli fruit hybrid lowers cholesterol:

The juice of the pomelit - a fruit developed in Israel (a hybrid of a grapefruit and a pomelo) - has been shown to lower blood cholesterol and increase antioxidant activity. This is good news for the 37 million American adults who have high blood cholesterol levels, and 105 million who have cholesterol levels that are higher than desirable (hypercholesterolemia).



Israeli scientists create human kidneys in mice:

Israeli scientists have successfully grown miniature human kidneys in mice, in a breakthrough that might one day help save thousands of patients waiting for transplants. A team at the Weizmann Institute of Science has induced human stem cell tissue to grow into functional kidneys, and have accomplished the same with porcine stem cell tissue. The method could lead to a promising solution to the severe shortage of kidney donors.

Israeli researchers develop vaccine that enables recovery of AIDS patients' immune system:

A Hadassah University Medical Center research team has developed a vaccine that significantly strengthens the body's immune system against the autoimmune aftereffects of HIV infection, a breakthrough that could dramatically make an impact in the treatment of AIDS patients.