



ZenBio, Inc. Awarded a CDC Contract to Establish an ALS Pilot Fibroblast Cell Bank

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC - ZenBio, Inc. announced that it has been awarded a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention contract to establish a pilot fibroblast cell bank from persons with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) who enrolled in the National ALS Registry. The award will fund the establishment of a research cell bank to help scientists to better understand the causes and pathophysiology of ALS.

ALS is a devastating disease with a very high mortality rate within the first 5 years after diagnosis. Because of this and the lack of clear understanding of its cause, a National ALS Registry was established to collect information on ALS incidence and prevalence. To support research into the causes and etiology of ALS, several biorepositories have been established over the past few years. The CDC and ATSDR want to determine the feasibility of establishing a fibroblast biorepository that can be used to study the cellular, molecular and genetic components of ALS pathophysiology. "We are happy to have the opportunity to help build this very important biorepository" said Dr. Ben Buehrer, ZenBio's CSO. "The cell bank will be a valuable tool for ALS researchers and will lead to a better understanding of this disease."

About ZenBio, Inc.

ZenBio, Inc., a privately held biotechnology company, is a leading provider of research tools for the study of human metabolic disease. Founded in 1995, the company performs contract research for major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies around the world. ZenBio pioneered tissue engineering with adult adipose-derived stem cells and is currently investigating the role obesity plays in the development and onset of metabolic disease. Its mission is to provide the highest quality cells, reagents and contract services to the biomedical research community; to develop and commercialize research tools; and to leverage its expertise in this field as a contract research organization.

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