



Press Release:

Zen-Bio awarded Phase I SBIR for skeletal muscle work

Date: June 12, 2007

RTP-based [Zen-Bio, Inc.](http://www.zen-bio.com) a privately held biotech company announced that it was awarded a 12 month \$185,000.00 Phase I SBIR grant from the National Institutes of Health. This grant will be used to fund the isolation and culturing of skeletal muscles cells which will be used in the development of a Human Myocytes and Adipocyte Co-culture system.

There has been a well documented rise in obesity over the past two decades that has been linked to increasing rates of metabolic and cardiovascular disease. Increased abdominal adiposity correlates with defects in glucose homeostasis and is associated with decreased insulin sensitivity in peripheral tissue. Skeletal muscle as well as adipocytes are important sites of insulin-stimulated glucose disposal and are sites of insulin resistance in obese individuals.

"The development of a well characterized, commercially available co-culture system using human primary myocytes and adipocyte will be a useful tool to investigate the complex interactions between two cell types directly involved in the onset of Type 2 diabetes" said Peter Pieraccini, Zen-Bio's president.

Zen-Bio, Inc.:

Zen-Bio, Inc www.zen-bio.com is the world leader in human adipocyte biology. The company has developed a novel technique for isolating and culturing human adipocytes (fat cells). Its mission is to provide the highest quality cells, reagents and contract services relating to adipocyte biology to the biomedical research community; to develop and commercialize research tools; and to leverage our expertise in this field into treatments for metabolic diseases through research and development and strategic alliances. The company is located in Research Triangle Park, NC and was founded in 1995. For more information visit the company website at www.zen-bio.com or call (919)-547-0692 or e-mail Richard Giersch at richard@zen-bio.com.

Zen-Bio, Inc.

3200 Chapel Hill-Nelson Blvd. Suite 104 • P.O. Box 13888 • Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709
Toll free: 1-866-ADIPOSE • Phone: (919) 547-0692 • FAX (919) 547-0693
[http:// www.zen-bio.com](http://www.zen-bio.com) • e-mail: information@zen-bio.com