Development of an Encapsulated Cell Therapy for Diabetes

Speaker: Eugene Brandon, PhD
Dir. of Strategic Relations and Project Management, ViaCyte

When: Tuesday, March 24th, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Where: HMRI Research Conference Hall,
734 Fairmount Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91105
Parking-for-a-fee available in Huntington Hospital Parking Garage on Fairmount

Topic Summary
ViaCyte is a regenerative medicine company focused on developing a novel cell therapy for the treatment of diabetes. ViaCyte is currently conducting a Phase 1/2 clinical trial of the company’s VC-01 lead product candidate in patients with type 1 diabetes who have minimal to no insulin-producing beta cell function. ViaCyte’s VC-01 combination product is based on the production of pancreatic progenitor cells manufactured from human pluripotent stem cells. The pancreatic progenitor cells are implanted in a durable and retrievable encapsulation device. Preclinical studies have shown that the implanted cells mature into pancreatic endocrine cells that secrete insulin in response to blood glucose levels, and protect against experimentally induced diabetes. The VC-01 product is being developed as a potential long-term diabetes treatment without immune suppression, and without risk of hypoglycemia or other diabetes-related complications. Dr. Brandon will discuss the research and development underlying this innovative technology.

About the Speaker
Eugene Brandon, PhD, is a thought leader in cell therapy, gene therapy, and stem cell biotechnology. Dr. Brandon is currently Director of Strategic Relations and Project Management for ViaCyte, where he has been integral in the development of an innovative stem cell-based product for diabetes. Prior to ViaCyte, he was at Ceregene, pursuing gene therapy for neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and ALS. Dr. Brandon has authored numerous scientific publications, is inventor on several patents, and has secured over $46M of research funding through grants. He also serves on the Board of Representatives of the ALS Association, and is Chairman of the Greater San Diego Chapter. Dr. Brandon received his BS from Tufts University, earned his PhD in Pharmacology and Neurobiology at the University of Washington School of Medicine, and did his post-doctoral training at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.