

Gary Tureski, President of Harvest Technologies, is on a mission: To empower physicians to harness the natural healing power of *adult stem cells*, derived from a patient's own bone marrow at his bedside, to fight a wide variety of difficult-to-treat vascular, orthopedic and cardiovascular diseases.

Each year, 160,000 Americans require lower-limb amputation for Critical Limb Ischemia...

CLI is the 'end-stage' of Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD), which is characterized by a reduction of blood flow to the lower limbs due to atherosclerosis ('hardening of the arteries'). Atherosclerosis is a disease in which the walls of the arteries thicken and harden as a result of the build-up of fatty deposits (plaques) on their inner lining.

In the later stages of PAD (i.e., Critical Limb Ischemia), blood flow is so inadequate that ulcerations and gangrene occur. Once PAD has progressed to CLI, the risks of limb loss and mortality increase. At six months after diagnosis approximately 20 percent of those with CLI will die, another 35 percent will experience amputation. And, the prognosis after amputation is grim: nearly 40 percent of these patients will die within two years of their first major amputation.

Two recently published clinical research studies (Hallett et al. and Allie et al.) found that amputation was the first therapy considered in 60-70 percent of the severely ischemic patients who went on to have a limb amputated.

A recent pilot study conducted in Berlin, Germany, using Harvest's BMAC System to treat CLI showed a 60 percent reduction in major amputations. "This clinical outcome did not surprise us. Adult stem cells derived from autologous bone marrow have been documented in the scientific literature to be clinically effective— but without the BMAC System, procurement of these cells has been laborious and tedious," says Mr. Tureski.

"Given the 20 published studies involving 1,483 patients at 36 sites around the world demonstrating that the use of adult stem cells derived from autologous bone marrow enables clinicians to offer new therapies for a variety of serious diseases," adds Mr. Tureski, "we are looking forward to a future in which the BMAC System is the standard of care for facilitating regenerative medicine to treat dreadful disease such as CLI."

"Autologous adult stem cells from bone marrow offer profound potential as therapies—but they are hard to find with the techniques used to date, and extremely difficult to culture outside of the human body. Our novel technology now makes it possible to harvest them easily and rapidly in order to develop new therapies for heretofore incurable diseases."
Gary Tureski



Personal

58. Grew up in Sag Harbor, Long Island. His entrepreneur father started a TV repair business and then an appliance store. Loves the sea as a result of a close relationship with his grandfather, an oyster watchman. Owns a 42 ft. Express Cruiser yacht called 'Ambition', named by his wife, Kathy. His favorite travel destination: the island of Maui (Hawaii).

Education

Long Island University (1970). BA in biology (with an emphasis in marine biology); minors in math and chemistry.

Professional

1972-1987: Direct sales and sales management positions with big and small device companies. 1987-1997: Co-founded Level 1 Technologies with Wes Verkaat, both of whom took out second mortgages on their homes as start-up capital. Level 1 marketed blood-warming technology for ER/Trauma physicians. At time of sale to Smith Industries, 18,000 hardware units in the field and sales of 2 million disposables a year, annual revenues of \$35 million and 200 employees. 1997— Present: Co-founded second company with Wes Verkaat: HarvestTechnologies.