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MESOBLAST NATIONAL TELEVISION COVERAGE

Melbourne, Australia; 8 March 2006: Mesoblast Limited (ASX:MSB) today confirmed that a national news item broadcast on Channel 9 and ABC-TV last night referred to its adult stem cell cardiovascular trial.

Executive Chairman, Mr Michael Spooner, welcomed the fair and accurate coverage which included an interview with a patient involved in the world-first cardiac trial using Mesoblast's specialist mesenchymal precursor cells.

In line with clinical trial protocols and The Privacy Act, Mesoblast will not publish the patient's name.

In the interests of fair and full disclosure, transcripts of the ABC-TV and Channel 9 news items follow.

Transcript ABC-TV 7pm News 7 March 2006

Newsreader: Doctors in Newcastle have injected adult stem cells into the heart of a cardiac patient. Not only did they grow into new blood vessels but it seems the cells can come from any donor without fear of rejection.

Reporter: Three months ago this would have been impossible for (the patient). After three heart attacks and bypass surgery, he's been given what his family says is a miracle with an experimental treatment using stem cells.

Patient: I can walk further. I can probably walk two or three hundred metres now whereas before I'd be lucky to do a hundred metres without having a spell.

Patient's wife: It's amazing how big a turnaround it really is for us. It's better than winning the lottery, you know.

Reporter: A month ago doctors at Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital took stem cells from (the patient's) bone marrow. The cells were purified and treated, then injected into his damaged heart. While in this case (the patient) received his own stem cells, the method used to treat them means they're unlikely to be rejected

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and could be used on any patient. That means bone marrow from one donor could potentially treat thousands of patients with heart failure.

Cardiologist, Dr Suku Thambar, Hunter Research Medical Institute: The possibility down the track may be that you can get these cells from healthy volunteers and have an off-the-shelf preparation available.

Reporter: For (the patient) the future is looking brighter.

Patient: That's what I'm really looking forward to is just having a normal life for the rest of my life, and the good things, the bad things, whatever comes along, but just that extension of my life, that's what it's given me.

Reporter: A further eight patients are now lining up for the experimental treatment.

Transcript Channel 9 – 6pm News 7 March 2006

Newsreader: In medical news, clinical trials of groundbreaking Australian stem cell technology are bringing new hope to people with severe heart disease. Adult stem cells have been implanted into the hearts of two patients with astounding results.

Reporter: Most of us take a walk to the letterbox for granted; this is the first time (the patient) has been able to do it for almost a year.

With a family history of heart disease and diabetes, he'd had a quadruple bypass by his forties, chronic heart failure by fifty.

Patient: Yeah, I was 52; that's too old for a transplant, so the only choice I had was the drugs.

Reporter: But medication wasn't helping.

Patient: Well, it was like being on death row and being paroled.

Patient's wife: I was so frightened I was going to lose him, you know.

Reporter: (The patient's) life has been saved by an Australian breakthrough involving an injection of stem cells into the heart muscle.

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A team has now discovered one particular stem cell, taken from a person's own bone marrow, can be cultivated into millions of cells in just six weeks. Inside the heart they turn into new blood vessels without causing rejection problems.

Patient: And you just lie back and it happens and the little stem cells grow.

Reporter: If trials go to plan, doctors say it could be just three years before an off-the-shelf version of the stem cell treatment is available, and not just for chronic heart failure, but for when a person has their first cardiac arrest and is rushed to emergency.

Cardiologist, Dr Suku Thambar: And then you would inject it around the heart attack and that would enable us to reduce the size of the heart attack.

Reporter: After just one month (the patient) has had no chest pain at all.

Patient's wife: There's a possibility he'll be here to walk the girls, the younger two girls, down the aisle. It's better than winning the lottery.

About Mesoblast Limited:

Mesoblast Limited (ACN 109 431 870) is an Australian biotechnology company committed to the development of novel treatments for orthopaedic conditions, including the rapid commercialisation of a unique adult stem cell technology aimed at the regeneration and repair of bone and cartilage. Our focus is to progress through clinical trials and international regulatory processes necessary to commercialise the technology in as short a timeframe as possible. Mesoblast Limited, which listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in December 2004, has the worldwide exclusive rights for a series of patents and technologies that have been developed over more than 10 years and which relate to the identification, extraction and culture of adult Mesenchymal Precursor Cells (MPCs). The technology has achieved outstanding results in pre-clinical in vivo studies in the regeneration and repair of large bone fractures. The company has also acquired a 33.3% interest in Angioblast Systems Inc, an American company developing the platform MPC technology for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, including repair and regeneration of blood vessels and heart muscle. Mesoblast and Angioblast are jointly funding and progressing the core technology. Mesoblast's strategy is to maximise shareholder value through both corporate partnerships and the rapid and successful completion of pre-clinical and clinical milestones.

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