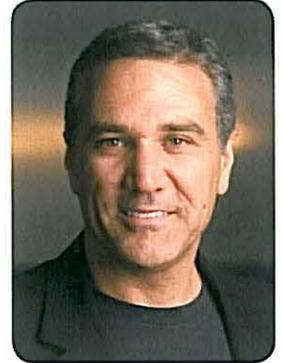




Discovery Spotlight



Christian Drapeau

Unleashing the Benefits of Adult Stem Cells Breakthrough Discoveries Uncover the Body's Natural Healing System

Christian Drapeau has a message about the role adult stem cells play in the body's natural healing system and wants to show the exceptional promise of these cells in human healing.

It has been an uphill battle, but the message is getting increased recognition.

"One of the greatest satisfactions was to go from the place of having what was considered a wild idea to something that is increasingly recognized," Drapeau says. "Ten years ago, we were thought of as lunatics."

The "wild idea" is this: Adult stem cells, which are created by our bone marrow, migrate to damaged or diseased tissues and organs and once there, they morph into healthy cells of that kind of tissue or organ – thus supporting the body's natural ability to regenerate and heal itself.

Originally from Montreal, Drapeau holds a B.S. in Neurophysiology from McGill University and a Master of Science in Neurology and Neurosurgery from the Montreal Neurological Institute. His stem cell journey began with *Aphanizomenon flos-aquae* (AFA). This is a freshwater species of cyanobacteria, a/k/a blue-green algae. It is also the only natural compound known to stimulate immune cell migration. This was discovered in the 1970s when a teacher, who wondered if eating nutrient-rich algae would help his students focus, experimented with AFA. The results were remarkable, the word spread, and sales of the botanical spiked.

Enter Drapeau. As a botanical researcher and neurophysiologist at Desert Lake Technologies, which sold AFA as a dietary supplement, he was asked to study the science behind the reported benefits. His team (and others researching the same thing) began uncovering evidence that AFA contained specific molecules that supported aspects of human health. People who took AFA were reporting extraordinary, seemingly miraculous healing – reversal of diabetes, reversal of multiple sclerosis. Drapeau remembers one story in particular, that of a woman who had suffered third-degree burns at age 12. "Fifty years later, she started taking this natural aquatic botanical," Drapeau says. "Every week for a year she took a picture of herself. I got a letter from her, along with a photo album that showed the entire transformation. At the end, the last picture, there were just no scars left."

"For a number of years, we did not have any explanation for these results," Drapeau says. "Then a colleague sent me an article called *Turning Blood into Brain*." In short, the article described bone marrow cells creating healthy brain cells in mice with leukemia. "When I read that, I started to think that maybe our AFA product was somehow supporting the body in naturally releasing more stem cells." Eventually, Drapeau and colleague Dr. Gitte Jensen were able to isolate the AFA component responsible. This significant discovery enabled him to develop a supplement that concentrated the benefits of AFA into a practical dosage.

After discovering the effects of AFA on stem cells, the team searched for other natural compounds linked to a broad range of health benefits and studied whether they too had an effect on stem cells. They found a series of natural products that support the natural function of stem cells in the body, including fucoidan, *Polygonum multiflorum*, goji berries, colostrum, and medicinal mushrooms.

In 2005, Drapeau and entrepreneur Ray Carter founded California-based Stemtech Health Sciences, launching the company with the StemEnhance® product, made from the unique blend of AFA concentrates. Today the company has offices in more than a dozen countries and uses a network marketing business model to sell an expanded product line. Recent additions include MigraStem – a protein drink made with a blend of compounds like colostrum, goji berry, medicinal mushrooms, and fucoidan from Chordaria, a type of seaweed that supports stem cell migration from the blood into tissues – and SE2, an advanced formula of the StemEnhance® product.

Along the way, Drapeau has written two books: *The Stem Cell Theory of Renewal* and *Cracking the Stem Cell Code*. Now chief science officer at Stemtech International, Drapeau is working on methods to enhance adult stem cell production and delivery, collaborating with scientists and companies worldwide on applications, and working on his next book.

“Christian is definitely a pioneer,” says Don Karn, Stemtech International vice president for North American markets. “He’s got a brilliant mind and yet an open mind. He’s seeing his idea change a lot of lives, as people using his product are dealing with their health issues and feeling better. It’s hard to find a scientist who can go beyond being a scientist and reach out and touch the hearts of people. That’s what Christian does.”

Touching hearts includes significant humanitarian work. The Stemtech Global Foundation supports programs worldwide that improve the lives of children and families, promote humane treatment of animals, and preserve natural resources. Stemtech also donates product to organizations as varied as the Baan Unrak orphanage in Thailand, elephant rescue centers in South Africa and Kenya, and Blue Star draft horse sanctuary in the United States. As Drapeau crisscrosses the globe speaking about adult stem cells, he often stops to visit Foundation beneficiaries and also seeks out new programs to support. “This work is done with so much pleasure and passion,” he says.

Drapeau’s discoveries hold much promise. Could heart disease, diabetes, liver degeneration, and other medical conditions become things of the past? Adult stem cells is one of the most active areas of study in medical science today. And it doesn’t look like Drapeau will be taking his eye off the ball anytime soon. When asked what he does when he is not working, his reply was, “Right now I would say that there’s nothing I do when I’m not working. I’m working all the time.”