

Entrepreneurial ID «venture leaders» 2008



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UpCell

UpCell: Training and consulting on human embryonic stem cell research and development.

Industry: Biotechnology

The venture leader

Alexis Bosman completed her BSc and MSc degrees at the University of Sydney, Australia. She started her scientific career in 1999 at a small Australian pharmaceutical company, where she was able to gain an insight into the nature of a pharmaceutical start-up and the creation and evolution of a successful business based on scientific discovery. There she worked on cell-based drug assays for anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory compounds.

After moving on from pharma into the private medical sector, Alexis established herself at Sydney IVF, a clinic specializing in assisted reproductive techniques and embryonic stem cell research, and was part of the team who derived the first GMP/clinical grade human embryonic stem (HESC) cell lines.

Alexis is currently completing a PhD at the University of Geneva and continuing her research on HESC while still investigating her own entrepreneurial pathway in this controversial area of research. Alexis' motivation lies in pushing forward a technology with the greatest potential in regenerative medicine. The holy grail of medicine.

Well, who says you shouldn't aim high.

The Company / project

Human embryonic stem cell (HESC) research is currently the most viable option for regenerative medicine today. Every day more and more research institutes, both private and public, are looking to embark in this area of research. Currently, when assessing the number of experienced individuals in this area, there is a lack of qualified people available to give formal training *in situ* with appropriate experience in the field. Today, if someone wishes to start working in this area of research, they must either poach someone with experience in HESC culture, of which there is a small pool, or be trained in a foreign environment by institutions providing a training service, which is usually part of a university or institute located within the United States.

To ameliorate this situation, UpCell wishes to provide 'in house' or *in situ* training to private and public research institutions, medical clinics and hospitals worldwide. We wish to provide to individuals and to groups who want to start working in HESC research and development, all the necessary techniques for culture in their own lab, exactly where their research will be done. As most scientists know, an experiment in one lab does not necessarily work in another, and many things get lost in translation. Additionally, we also wish to provide advice and consultation on the ethical and documentation issues associated with HESC research.

Our team has extended experience in creating fully functioning HESC culture laboratories from either previous cell culture laboratories or from completely new laboratories. Additionally, we have experience in the manufacture of HESC under GMP conditions for their clinical use.

UpCell is currently seeking investors to fund the expansion and development of the company, as well as additional members to join our team who will provide financial advice and additional intellectual property updates in the field. At present, UpCell is still in the research and capital raising stage and are currently running on our own funds. We have already attracted several prospective clients and are raising interests locally and internationally.