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## <u>Trendsetters: Canadian Company Leads Stem Cell Industry in Research</u> and Development

TORONTO (June 14, 2011) – In the last year, two major US cord blood companies have made human umbilical cord mesenchymal tissue/cell storage available to the public. This is a particularly exciting development for **Toronto-based Tissue Regeneration Therapeutics** (*TRT*) who have been providing such services, for over three years, to thousands of Canadians through an exclusive license to **CReATe Cord Blood Bank**. "It illustrates the leadership capabilities of Canadian stem cell research to drive the industry," said Dr. John E. Davies, *TRT*'s president and CEO.

Emerging from Toronto's stem cell research community, and supported in part by the Canadian Stem Cell Network, *TRT* has identified itself as a unique contender in the mesenchymal field. The company was the first to have patents issued and allowed in both the US and Europe for the extraction of perivascular mesenchymal cells from human cord tissue. This cell source has also allowed a paradigm shift in the understanding of such stem cells: "Mesenchymal stem cells have always been thought of a single population but, based on robust experiments at the single cell level done in collaboration with the University of Toronto, we have redefined the previously accepted mesenchymal stem cell hierarchy, "said Davies.

The emergence of similar initiatives in the US is a substantial advance for the worldwide stem cell community, however it is particularly exciting to see one of Canada's own leading the trend.

TRT was founded in 2004 on the research and intellectual property of Dr. Davies and his research team at the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, University of Toronto (U of T). The company provides licensing opportunities to collaborating partners. Together, they create cell and regenerative strategies for therapies that address important health care issues of today.

TRT will be in attendance at this year's International Society for Stem Cell Research conference at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, booth 730, June 15-18, 2011. Please visit www.verypowerfulbiology.com for more information.