Scientists make progress in controlling the effects of diabetes with stem cells

BY KAYNA TAYLOR
Staff Reporter

We can now cure diabetes in our lifetime.

The story of Americans are diabetic with every day. Diabetes is a chronic condition in which the body cannot control the amount of sugar in the blood. There are two types of diabetes:

Type 1 and Type 2. Recent research and experiments suggest a hopeful future for those with Type 1 diabetes.

Professor of biology Joanne Mitchell said there are two main points she has that is that human embryonic stem cells now have the ability to generate islet cells, which the body requires sugar control, and the islet cells can control the amount of sugar in the blood. The biggest problem is that most people are not interested in patients with diabetes.

“Stem cell research has caused controversy in the past because of its potential to help the body regenerate itself,” Mitchell said. “This is why people with diabetes are against stem cell research — because there are no particular ethical concerns with the use of embryonic stem cells.”

There are two types of diabetes, the main types are: Type 1 diabetes and Type 2 diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes is caused by the body’s immune system attacking the beta cells of the pancreas, which are responsible for producing insulin. Type 2 diabetes is caused by the body’s inability to produce enough insulin or respond to insulin.

“Type 1 diabetes is a little bit harder to manipulate, but those cells are pre-programmed to do certain things,” Mitchell said. “Type 2 diabetes does not control the body’s immune system because of the body’s lack of blood sugar to the body.”

“Stem cell research is an exciting frontier in medical research,” Mitchell said. “Stem cells can turn into any cell in the body and they can be used to treat a variety of diseases.”

“Stem cell research will eventually help people with diabetes,” Mitchell said. “We may see a cure for diabetes in our lifetime.”

Research brief:

Type 1 diabetes: Cure possible for future

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