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## Reborn, ACell enters medical wound healing

Jessup firm successfully appealed a 2005 court ruling alleging patent infringement

**Friday, Nov. 10, 2006**

by Steve Berberich  
Staff Writer

Alan Spievack, surgeon and founder of ACell Inc., is “just delighted” that he is joining the emerging field of tissue-regenerating products for wound healing time.

The Jessup company resumed operations this month following what Spievack called a “difficult” three-year round of court battles to protect its patented wound-healing product made from pig bladders.

Spievack started ACell in 1999 and soon thereafter started marketing its products in veterinary markets, including trainers of thoroughbred and steeplechase horses. The company's owned company had sales of \$1 million between June 2004 and June 2005.

The company had to shut down in July 2005, however, when a U.S. district judge in West Lafayette, Ind., ruled it was guilty of infringing on patents owned by Cook Biotech Inc. of nearby West Lafayette, a company associated with Purdue University.

But in August, a federal appeals court overturned the verdict, and last month the court granted Biotech's petition to reconsider the decision.

ACell is primed to re-enter the lucrative human-wound-healing market, said the company's COO and general counsel. He said he is fielding inquiries from veterinarians and firms and potential marketing partners in the pharmaceutical industry. The global wound-healing market was worth \$1.49 billion in 2004 and is expected to reach \$3.05 billion by 2010.



according to the 2005 book “Global Advanced Wound Management Market:

“Our technology has applications across a broad range of medical fields: wound surgery, urology, gynecology, orthopedics, plastic surgery and cardiovascular,” Grody said.

The company’s urinary bladder matrix is a parchment-like sheet made from the bladder and the adjacent connective tissue. ACell also sells a wet form of the powder form called ACell Vet, which, according to the trade journal Horse Care, is in healing injured ligaments and tendons of sport horses.

ACell, with 13 employees, is not the only Maryland company in the wound-healing

BioElectronics Corp. of Frederick, RegeneRx Biopharmaceuticals Inc. of Beltsville and BioSurface Engineering Technologies Inc. of Rockville all are trying to tap the

BioSurface develops synthetic peptides that boost tissue healing and aids the attachment of medical device implants.

RegeneRx is developing a specialized human peptide to heal bedsores, chronic heart damage, eye corneal conditions and other sores.

And BioElectronics has developed ActiPatch, a disposable skin patch with a battery-powered microchip designed to promote faster healing after surgery.

Golf, poison ivy, a bladder

The saga of ACell, parts 1 and 2, began when Spievack got poison ivy playing golf near his home and work at Harvard Medical School’s hospital system in Boston.

Instead of using Calamine lotion, he took a dog bladder out of his basement refrigerator and applied it to the sores on his skin. The bladder cured the poison ivy wounds, and

While not everyone with a wound has a handy animal bladder stored in the refrigerator, the owner of a dying dog had donated the organ to the Harvard hospital system – and the discovery rekindled his “sideline research,” he said.

He had begun his research in college with studies of how salamander newts regenerate severed body parts.

Soon after his itchy golf round, Spievack met Purdue University’s chief inventor of engineered tissues, Stephen F. Badylak, at a scientific meeting.

They created ACell to qualify for licensing the university’s tissue regeneration

receive research loans. Since fired from Purdue during the trials, Badylak is r chief scientific officer. Spievack is vice president and director of technology.

Spievack's research is still in Boston. And ACell's manufacturing plant is ne slaughterhouses in LaFayette. But it will maintain its sales, marketing and in in Jessup, which is convenient to medical and federal facilities in the region,

Before the litigation, ACell was "on track for a million dollars in annual sale

But big money was also at hand for Cook Biotech and the Purdue Research F which is responsible for the university's technology-transfer program and its Park, home of Cook Biotech. The foundation has received more than \$15 mil than 75 of its patents for its technology for extracellular matrices as a platform engineering, the inventions by Badylak and others.

ACell's technology is only one of many such matrix technologies, Spievack :

"That is why we are delighted" to be past the court battles, he said. "Not onl vindicated as a scientific advancement, but hopefully we can finally grow a v company, which, if it works the way the government wants it to, will [genera money."

Applying "these new dermal substitutes for wound care is a trend now," said Leneau, director of wound care at the Veterans Hospital in Baltimore and clin the Diabetic Foot Center at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. He said s as the pig bladder product heal a wound faster and often with less risk for inf conventional treatment.

But ACell and Cook Biotech continue to jab publicly at each other.

Grody said the only appeal left to Cook is to the U.S. Supreme Court "and th that."

However, Cook has not ruled that out, said spokesman David McCarty. "At considering all options and cannot comment on any particulars of the legal ca