



SpineSmith Hires Dr. Suzuki as Director of Research
Biomaterials expert to focus on breakthroughs in adult stem cells

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(Austin, TX – June 9, 2008) SpineSmith Partners LP has hired Richard Suzuki, Ph.D. as the company's Director of Research and Development for Biomaterial Engineering, further positioning the company as an industry leader in adult stem cell research.

In his role, Dr. Suzuki will lead SpineSmith's Biomaterial Engineering Department collaborating with spine surgeons to research and develop technologies in tissue regeneration. The emerging market of adult stem cell therapies creates new opportunities for Dr. Suzuki in product development, laboratory analysis, animal testing, regulatory approvals and various clinical trials.

Dr. Suzuki spent the last four years at the prestigious Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio as a research engineer in the Biomedical Materials Engineering Section of the Department of Microencapsulation, Nanomaterials and Process Engineering. SWRI is one of the oldest and largest independent, nonprofit, applied research and development organizations in the United States. Dr. Suzuki's research focused on the use of material engineering technologies in biomedical applications, including biosensors and tissue engineering scaffolds for tissue reconstruction.

"Dr. Suzuki will provide experience and leadership to SpineSmith's position as a leader in adult stem cell technologies and tissue engineering," said Steve Melchiodi, SpineSmith President, who notes Suzuki is filling a new position within the company. "Dr. Suzuki's research in biomaterials is a key component to the collaborative approach in product development marrying scientific engineering with the clinical experience available through SpineSmith's network of surgeons."

Dr. Suzuki's research at SWRI included him being the co-investigator on an internal research project examining performance driven tissue engineering scaffolds and project manager on research projects to develop nanosurfaces capable of protein purification and an orthopedic fracture implant systems. His research prior to joining SWRI focused on the surface chemistry of titanium and the biocompatibility exhibited by titanium implants. Through the course of his studies, he became familiar with various biological laboratory

methods including cell and tissue culture, molecular assay techniques, primary cell harvesting, and immunostaining techniques. His experience at SWRI will allow him to build a biomaterials lab at the SpineSmith office in Austin, TX, as well as raise money through government grants and collaborate with academic institutions like the University of Texas. Dr. Suzuki will work to ensure SpineSmith's leadership role in adult stem cell and tissue regeneration technologies.

About SpineSmith Partners LP

SpineSmith Partners LP designs, develops and markets implants and biologics for surgical fixation, correction and tissue regeneration of the spine. We take a different approach from other companies, utilizing a collaborative approach between scientists, engineers and spine surgeons. Our unique approach gives spine surgeons the ability to directly impact the direction of our product portfolio, ensuring applicability and achieving the highest standards of patient care.

Founded in Austin, Texas, in 2006, SpineSmith originated as a think tank to enable surgeon investors to have direct input into the design and distribution of spine technology. For more information, please visit: www.SpineSmithUsa.com.

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