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# ASX ANNOUNCEMENT/MEDIA RELEASE



**HMRI @ John Hunter Hospital**

**Monday 19 December 2005**

## **Adult Stem Cell Heart Trial Update**

Medical investigators today delivered the first update on the progress of a human clinical trial that evaluates the safety and standard operating procedures of Mesoblast's specialist adult stem cells for patients with severe coronary artery disease.

Interventional Cardiologist and Hunter Medical Research Institute researcher, Dr Suku Thambar, is Chief Investigator for the trial, which is being conducted at Newcastle's John Hunter Hospital. Dr Thambar said today that the first patient enrolled in this ground breaking clinical trial had safely completed the first vital step.

"We have obtained the patient's own stem cells, which will be grown in culture, and in the course of several weeks we will perform the next step of implanting the cells into the affected region of the patient's heart," he said.

"We have many patients suffering from severe coronary artery disease who have very few options for significant improvement in life expectancy or quality of life. We are optimistic that Mesoblast's specialist stem cell technology will provide greater hope and better outcomes for these patients."

Mesoblast's Founder and Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Silviu Itescu, said that this is outstanding Australian technology which has been developed by world-leading scientists over a period of more than ten years.

"The technology holds great promise for the treatment of many common and debilitating diseases," Professor Itescu said. "The technology's potential for generating new blood vessels and heart muscle could significantly impact on the many patients who suffer from severe cardiac disease".

The trial has been approved by Hunter Area Research Ethics Committee.

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the University of Newcastle and the community.



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