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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UMBILICAL CORD STEM CELLS: THE GATE TO MOLECULAR MEDICINE**

The possibility of treating mainly neuromuscular diseases such as Alzheimer and Parkinson's as well as heart diseases with stem cell transplant is now great.

Up to today, more than 6,000 stem cell transplants have been performed worldwide to compatible recipients that have leukemia, genetic or neoplastic diseases and haematological disorders, while during the last three years according to more than 200 clinical trials that were conducted on a global level, umbilical cord stem cells have been used to treat diseases of the spinal cord, diabetes type I, strokes and "Krabbs" disease.

The above was the focus of the Press Conference and the Scientific Event that was held by the HYGEIA - MITERA - LITO Group, on Tuesday, July 10 2007 on the occasion of the visit by Dr. David Matzilevic, Scientific Director of the New England Cord Blood Bank Inc. and Associate Professor of the Harvard Medical School.

New England Cord Blood Bank Inc. is one of the most experienced and largest cord blood banks in the USA and in cooperation with the HYGEIA - MITERA - LITO Group and the companies "Euroconsultants S.A." and Minmax Health Ltd. have created the stem cell banking company "Stem-Health S.A."

As it has been announced already, the goal of Stem-Health S.A. is to create an international network of stem cell banks , with exclusive cooperation with 23 countries in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, which meets the highest standards and is approved by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB). Through these banks, parents will be able to store in their own country the stem cells of their newborn children.

The goal of Mr. Matzilevich's visit, among others, is to promote cooperation on a research level between the New England Cord Blood Bank Inc and Stem-Health S.A, to treat thalassemia (Cooley's) and sickle cell anemia.

As Mr. Matzilevich stressed, the ability of the polyvalent umbilical cord stem cells to pass the borders between the cell lines, will redefine and direct the future of molecular as well as regenerative medicine.