GBI Research
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The stem cell therapy market in Asia-Pacific is poised to offer significant contributions in the future, thanks to renewed interest by the respective governments of India, China, Japan, South Korea and Singapore in providing cures for a range of diseases, states a new report by healthcare experts GBI Research.

Stem cells are unique body cells that possess the ability to divide and differentiate into diverse cell types, and can be used to produce more stem cells. The use of adult stem cells has been successfully employed to treat bone and blood related disorders such as leukemia, through bone marrow transplants. Stem cell therapy is used to repair and regenerate the damaged tissue, though the actual mechanism of action is largely unknown.

The growth in the stem cell therapy market will not only provide treatment options but will also contribute significantly to the countries’ Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with the President of South Korea only last year referring to stem cell research as a “new growth engine” for the nation’s economy. In order to support the stem cell industry, regulatory guidelines in Asia-Pacific countries allow stem cell research, and this has led to its commercialization. India and South Korea are the leaders in the commercialization of stem cell therapy, with approved products for Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI), osteoarthritis and anal fistula in Crohn’s disease, amongst others. The countries allow the use of human embryonic stem cells and provide adequate funding support for the research.

Stem cell therapy is an emerging field, and a large amount of research is currently being carried out by institutions such as hospitals, universities and medical colleges. According to GBI Research’s analysis of the stem cell therapy research in Asia-Pacific, 63% of pipeline molecules were being researched by academia. The emergence of institutional research has boosted stem cell discoveries, as companies can be put off conducting research due to uncertain therapeutic outcomes. China and Japan witness only a negligible industry presence in stem cell research, as academic institutions dominate – however in contrast, India has the presence of both industry and academia. The major institutions engaged in stem cell research in India are LV Prasad Eye Institute (LYPEI) for Limbal Stem Cell Technology (LSCT), and the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) for stem cell therapy for type 2 diabetes mellitus.

The market is poised for significant growth in the future, due to the anticipated launch of JCR Pharmaceuticals’ JR-031 in Japan in 2014, and FCB Pharmicell’s Cerecellgram (CCG) in South

Korea in 2015. GBI Research therefore predicts that the stem cell therapy market will grow in value from $545m in 2012 to $972m in 2018, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 10%.

* Stem Cell Therapy Market in Asia-Pacific to 2018 - Commercialization Supported by Favorable Government Policies, Strong Pipeline and Increased Licensing Activity