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### **ARMY FUNDS STEM CELL THERAPY CLINICAL TRIALS THROUGH MTEC**

**Charleston, SC** – In partnership with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) is pleased to announce that the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHealth) in Houston, Texas, has been awarded funding to conduct the first ever clinical trial investigating a stem cell therapy for the prevention of inflammatory complications following severe traumatic injury.

Military conflicts expose service members to traumatic brain injury and related complications, such as acute kidney injury, acute respiratory distress syndrome, venous thromboembolic disease, multiple organ failure, and cerebral edema. These complications carry a significant risk of morbidity, prolonged hospital stays, and mortality.

UTHealth's research will address these risks by evaluating the ability of Athersys, Inc.'s MultiStem<sup>®</sup> product to prevent inflammatory complications of severe traumatic injury. Existing research indicates that early infusion of cellular treatments like MultiStem reduce organ injury following trauma. Such therapies have the potential to prevent inflammatory complications among injured Warfighters, and could facilitate enroute care to medical facilities.

MTEC awarded UTHealth project funding for this Phase 2 trial in the amount of \$1,999,802, with an additional \$1,499,659 in project funding provided by the Memorial Hermann Foundation. UTHealth's proposed randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled trial seeks to enroll approximately 150 patients admitted to Memorial Hermann – Texas Medical Center with severe traumatic injuries. Charles S. Cox, Jr., M.D., will lead the clinical trial. Co-investigators are Charles Wade, Ph.D., and John B. Holcomb, M.D.

Lester Martinez, MD, MPH, Major General (Retired), U.S. Army, President and Chairman of MTEC Board acknowledged the tremendous value of UTHealth's research. "Congratulations to UTHealth on this award—MTEC is honored to support their research efforts, which can save the lives of America's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines," Martinez stated.

*MTEC is a biomedical technology consortium collaborating with multiple government agencies under a 10-year renewable Other Transaction Agreement with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command. To find out more about MTEC, visit <http://www.mtec-sc.org>.*

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