

USM Announces Findings On Use Of Stem Cells In Neuro Treatment

KOTA BAHARU, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- A group of researchers at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) created a milestone in the field of neuroscience with their findings on the use of embryonic and bone marrow stem cells to treat neuro diseases.

These two stem cells can be used in the treatment of paralysis, brain injury or backbone injury, according to Prof Jafri Malin Abdullah who led the team of researchers.

Announcing the outcome after a year of research today, Prof Jafri said the two stem cells could be used to treat neuro diseases by replacing the damaged cells.

There are four categories of stem cells -- embryonic stem cells, fetal stem cells, umbilical cord stem cells and adult stem cells which could be obtained from the bone marrow, intestines, heart, skin, brain, pancreas and eyes, he added.

He said the treatment could be used on humans in three to five years' time.

"A lot of researches have been done on stem cells but this is the first involving neuroscience in Malaysia," he added.

Meanwhile, USM Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dzulkifli Abdul Razak said the finding by the team was another success by USM Hospital in the field of medical research.

"We hope the outcome of this research can be used to treat human in the future," he added.

The research is funded by the Higher Education Ministry under the Basic Education Fund involving an allocation of RM250,000.

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