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CLOSING the GAPS

CME evolves into physician self-evaluation, improvement of shortfalls in medical practice

EDITOR'S NOTE: Changes in the goals of continuing medical education (CME) are beginning to take hold and eventually will affect all medical specialties, including dermatology. In this issue, we examine how the emerging format dictates that physicians perform self-evaluation, identify gaps in care, implement solutions to close those gaps and report on results.

By **Lisette Hilton**
Staff Correspondent

National report — Physicians immersed in the world of continuing medical education (CME) say big changes are happening. And doctors of all specialties, including dermatology, will be affected by the emerging CME focus: individual outcomes improvement.

"The (healthcare) environment is one of rising costs, increasing concern for patient safety, and yet, ample evidence of subpar clinical care," says George C. Mejicano, M.D., president of the Alliance for Continuing Medical Education and professor, department of medicine, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

"That is the compelling argument of why continuing education needs to and has been adapting to meet the future needs of not only the profession, but of the public," he says.

Dr. Mejicano calls traditional CME an enrichment experience in which physicians learn for learning's sake.

"The whole impetus for continuing professional development has been based upon a want: I want to learn about something, so I'm going to learn about it," he says.

But data suggest that traditional CME does little to change physician behavior when delivering subsequent patient care, says Erik Stratman, M.D., department of dermatology, Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, Wis.

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Pediatric Dermatology

Novel nanotech

Fusion protein with growth factor, peptides accelerates wound healing

By **Bob Roehr**
Staff Correspondent

Boston — A novel fusion protein that includes growth factor and self-assembles into nanoparticles holds promise as a platform for wound healing, researchers say.

In a study conducted in mice, a construct of keratinocyte growth factor (KGF) and an elastin-like peptide (ELP) — a major structural component of skin and connective tissue promoted greater healing than either component administered separately or together.

Clinical use of growth factors has been disappointing because they are readily absorbed into the bloodstream, meaning that repeated reapplication is needed to achieve

even modest benefit. Growth factors also are expensive to manufacture.

Now, Martin L. Yarmush, M.D., Ph.D., and his research colleagues at the Center for Engineering in Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital believe they have found a solution to both issues.

They genetically fused an elastin polypeptide and keratinocyte growth factor.

"Because of the physical properties of the elastin polypeptide, when the fusion protein is exposed to physiological temperatures, it immediately comes out of solution and forms the center of a small ball, with the growth factor displayed on the outside of the ball," Dr. Yarmush says.

Nanotech: Customized care ahead? See page 31

REPLERE

Skincare line aims for anti-aging

Replere is a natural, phenolic antioxidant



skincare line, composed of five products, formulated by board certified dermatologist Debbie Palmer, M.D. The range features anti-aging and other skin-enhancing ingredients,

including Coffea arabica extract, glycolic, salicylic and azelaic acids, green tea, vitamins A and E, which work synergistically to neutralize the primary free radicals that damage skin. Helping to reverse the visible signs of aging, Replere uses Total ORACsc (Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity skincare), which measures antioxidant activity in skincare products. All Replere products are paraben-, fragrance- and dye-free.

The face wash is a foaming wash to gently yet thoroughly cleanse while enhancing overall texture and appearance. It is made for all skin types. The alcohol-free skin tonic hydrates and soothes skin, preparing it for moisturizer. The day lotion hydrates and protects against everyday environmental free radical damage. It is appropriate for all skin types. The night cream deeply moisturizes and repairs free radical damage while you sleep. The eye serum moisturizes and repairs free radical damage around the delicate eye area.

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