

## **Media Alert**

## Living Cell Technologies a finalist in 2013 New Zealand Hi-Tech Awards

**Auckland, 28 March 2013** – Living Cell Technologies was last night announced as a finalist in the 2013 New Zealand Hi-Tech Awards. The company is a finalist in the Cisco Hi-Tech Emerging Company of the Year category alongside EROAD, GreenButton and HydroWorks.

Living Cell Technologies Managing Director, Andrea Grant, says "In the past year we've made tremendous advances in securing funding and progressing new product candidates in our portfolio to address new markets. A record number of companies entered the awards this year, so to be selected as a finalist is a real accolade," says Andrea.

The NZ Hi-Tech Awards recognise the success of the New Zealand technology sector and its contribution to the New Zealand economy. By entering the awards, Living Cell Technologies' success gains the attention of some of the country's most successful companies and business leaders. Read more about the awards at: <u>http://www.hitech.org.nz/</u>. Winners will be announced on 17 May.

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## For further information: <u>www.lctglobal.com</u>

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## **About Living Cell Technologies**

Living Cell Technologies (LCT) is a pioneer and recognised world leader in cell transplant therapeutics. It aims to improve the wellbeing of people with serious diseases by discovering, developing and commercialising breakthrough treatments that use the regenerative healing properties of naturally occurring cells.

In 2011, LCT formed a partnership with Otsuka Pharmaceutical Factory Inc (OPF) establishing the joint venture Diatranz Otsuka Limited (NZ). LCT transferred its most advanced therapeutic candidate DIABECELL<sup>®</sup> into the joint venture, while OPF vested \$25m to fund the final phase of development of DIABECELL through to market approval.

DIABECELL is in Phase IIb clinical trials in Argentina and is indicated for the treatment of patients with type 1 diabetes, especially those suffering from life threatening episodes of unaware hypoglycaemia. This is when a patient's blood glucose falls to dangerously low levels without the patient having any sign or symptom that this is happening. This can lead to sudden unconsciousness and can lead to loss of life, especially if the patient is alone and does not receive immediate assistance to restore their glucose levels.

LCT's second therapeutic candidate is NTCELL<sup>®</sup>, a cell type taken from the brain which has a powerful ability to protect, repair and regenerate damage tissues. In pre-clinical studies NTCELL has demonstrated the ability to regenerate damaged tissue and restore function in animal models of Parkinson's, stroke, Huntington's and hearing loss as well as non-neurological conditions such as wound healing.

In 2012, LCT and OPF agreed to co-develop NTCELL as a treatment for Parkinson's with OPF fully funding the Phase I trials in New Zealand.

For more information please visit <u>www.lctglobal.com</u>.