September 2022

Welcome to our e-newsletter!

Greetings -

We have experienced such a great summer here at WFIRM! It's always one of our busiest times, especially for educational programming.

One highlight was the announcement of a $36 million award from the Department of Defense that will enable the institute to establish a research and development program using our Body-on-a-Chip technology to study the ways in which a virus will invade and infect humans.

Program coordinators for our annual Regenerative Medicine Essentials course, which combined again this year with the World Stem Cell Summit, reported great success and have already announced dates for next year, June 5-8, 2023. The virtual platform has allowed us to reach so many more participants, but we miss the collegiality of being together so we are planning a hybrid event next year. Stay tuned for details to come.

We hosted 34 of the brightest students -- undergrads and high school students -- from across the country for the Summer Scholars program and the Summer Research Exposure

University Graduate School of Arts & Science, in collaboration with our team, is recruiting for the inaugural Fall 2023 class for the Translational Biotechnology masters degree program.

Our growth in the ReMDO RegeneratOR and the RegenMed Hub continues with many new collaborations, the latest of which is RTT Medical. And our partners in the Innovation Quarter have highlighted local growth in the regenerative medicine space. You can read all about these below.

Thank you always for your interest in our research work and endeavors to support the growth of the regenerative medicine field. We look forward to sharing periodic updates on our efforts.

Best Regards -
Anthony Atala

NEW: Translational Biotechnology (MS) Degree Program

The Translational Biotechnology (MS) degree program features scientific, business, and regulatory affairs training with the goal of preparing graduates to lead the movement of novel therapies from the laboratory into the clinic.

RTT Medical Joins the RegenMed Hub Innovation Accelerator

RTT Medical produces regenerative tissue technologies and is currently working on developing products for the management of partial and full thickness wounds, ranging from pressure wounds to diabetic ulcers to trauma wounds. Their presence in the Accelerator and access to the RegenMed Hub Test Bed and available support technology, will help their team streamline and speed up their commercialization efforts.

Learn more about RTT and the Accelerator here.

RTT MEDICAL
Regenerative Tissue Technologies

U.S. Defense Department's Defense Threat Reduction Agency Funds Virus Infection Study

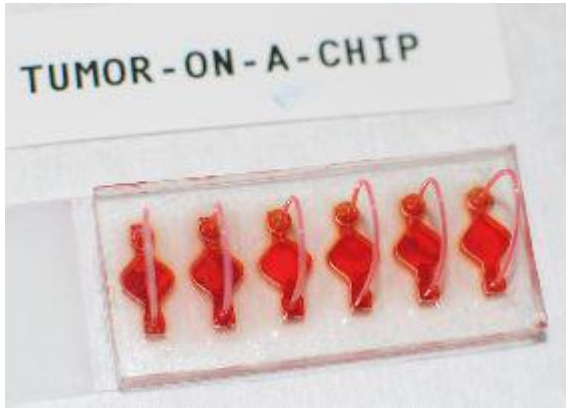
The program is known by the acronym PATMOS, which stands for Pathogenesis and Toxicity Forecasting Using Multi-Organoid Systems. The research involves using the institute's Body-on-a-Chip platform to investigate the changes that take place from viruses and how to best prevent and treat these infections.

The announcement was covered by multiple media outlets.

Innovation Quarter highlights a growing hub of world-class regenerative medicine visionaries

Learn more about the regenerative medicine companies in Winston-Salem.

RESEARCH NEWS



Cancer organoid system created to study bacterial effects on immunotherapy

WFIRM researchers are using a tumor organoid system to examine the effects of metabolites secreted by bacteria on a specialized immunotherapy—immune checkpoint blockage, a promising cancer treatment development—to determine why some patients don't respond or develop a resistance to the treatment over time. Read the full release here.

MEDIA HITS

Science Magazine

Human urine-derived stem cells have robust regenerative potential

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WakeHealth.edu/WFIRM

About Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine: The Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine is recognized as an international leader in translating scientific discovery into clinical therapies, with many world firsts, including the development and implantation of the first engineered organ in a patient. Over 400 people at the institute, the largest in the world, work on more than 40 different tissues and organs. A number of the basic principles of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine were first developed at the institute. WFIRM researchers have successfully engineered replacement tissues and organs in all four categories – flat structures, tubular tissues, hollow organs and solid organs – and 15 different applications of cell/tissue therapy technologies, such as skin, urethras, cartilage, bladders, muscle, kidney, and vaginal organs, have been successfully used in human patients. The institute, which is part of Wake Forest University, is located in the Innovation Quarter in downtown Winston-Salem, NC, and is driven by the urgent needs of patients. The institute is making a global difference in regenerative medicine through collaborations with over 400 entities and institutions worldwide, through its government, academic and industry partnerships, its start-up entities, and through major initiatives in breakthrough technologies, such as tissue engineering, cell therapies, diagnostics, drug discovery, biomanufacturing, nanotechnology, gene editing and 3D printing.

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