

July 23th, 2015

REGENMED ACHIEVES AATB ACCREDITATION

Thunder Bay, Ontario – The Lake Superior Centre for Regenerative Medicine (RegenMed) has been awarded the prestigious accreditation of the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB), announced today by David Stezenko, RegenMed Executive Director.

Accreditation follows a lengthy and intensive process, including an on-site inspection by an independent inspector. The accreditation process establishes that RegenMed meets or exceeds standards and policies established by the AATB. By successfully meeting requirements, RegenMed joins more than 100 institutions that have earned AATB accreditation.

The American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB) is a professional, non-profit, scientific and educational organization, and has accredited tissue banks since 1986. Its membership totals more than 125 accredited tissue banks and 650 individual members. These institutions recover tissue from more than 30,000 donors and distribute in excess of two million allografts for more than one million tissue transplants performed annually in the U.S alone. More than 90% of human tissue distributed in the U.S. for transplant comes from AATB-accredited tissue banks.

For RegenMed, this voluntary accreditation reinforces the organization's longstanding commitment to excellence in performance of tissue banking in Canada. Obtaining AATB accreditation demonstrates an organization's commitment to the highest standards and service excellence. AATB-accredited organizations are recognized as leaders in their field and as pivotal voices in the dialogue through which consensus-based, voluntary standards are developed and implemented.

RegenMed has striven to be a leader in a number of initiatives intended to improve health care at a cost affordable to Ontarians. RegenMed is the only freestanding tissue bank in Ontario operated as a not-for-profit on a cost recovery model. RegenMed also pioneers a cost effective technician based recovery model in Ontario, based on best practices already proven to work in the United States. RegenMed operates the only musculoskeletal tissue processing facility in Ontario. Recently, we have begun skin and heart valve recovery to readily meet the growing needs of Ontario's Health Care system. We are excited for our growing role in bringing the best possible tissues for transplant to Ontario.

David Stezenko, Executive Director