# Next generation tissue regeneration

*With offices in Or Akiva, Israel and Princeton, NJ, Regentis Biomaterials is a privately held company focused on developing and commercializing proprietary hydrogels for tissue regeneration. Dr. Alastair Clemow, Regentis CEO, explains why their tissue regeneration method is more effective and cost efficient than others, and also highlights their commercialization strategy.*

Regentis was founded in 2004 by Dr. Dror Seliktar, who had been researching hydrogels at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology University in Haifa, Israel. After operating as an incubator company for three years, Regentis received funding in 2007, providing the financing for human trials of the hydrogel. Dr. Clemow joined the company as President and Chief Executive Officer in 2010, when Regentis was already conducting these human clinical trials. Previously, Dr. Clemow held the position of President and Chief Executive Officer in a number of companies that he helped found, including Nexgen Spine, which developed an artificial spinal disc.

Dr. Clemow says that Regentis is currently focusing on cartilage repair as the primary application for their hydrogels, even though there are opportunities beyond that. There's a real need for a viable cartilage repair product, he points out. "There is only one cartilage repair product approved in the US at the moment, and at least three in Europe. What they have in common is that they take our part of the patient's cartilage, grow it in a lab, and subsequently put it back in the knee. The problem with this is that it involves two procedures, making it costly. Our cartilage regeneration method is totally different. Our hydrogel is implanted in the patient's knee as a liquid, and that liquid turns into solid by exposure to ultraviolet light. Within six to nine months, there is cartilage regeneration and the patient can go back to an active life. We believe that knee defects should be treated like potholes in the road: the only way to adequately repair them is by completely filling them up, and our method is proven to do just that in an efficient manner."

While Regentis is still in the process of building up a bulk of scientific evidence, the company expects to receive the CE mark for GelrinC, its biodegradable hydrogel for articular cartilage regeneration, later this year. The company has just raised USD 10 million in its latest round of funding from new investors DSM through its venturing subsidiary and from Crossroad Fund, as well as from existing investors Medica Venture Partners, SCPVitalife and the Technion Investment Opportunities Fund. The Series C round of financing will be used to establish Regentis's European presence and expand its ongoing clinical efforts of GelrinC. Dr. Clemow points out they will focus on select European markets initially. Outside of Europe, he believes forming partnerships with third parties locally will probably be their marketing strategy.

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