

It's showtime for stem cells in San Diego

San Diego research centers have banded together to bring in stem cell grants, getting more than \$261 million. Local leaders calculated there would be commercial benefits as well, reinforcing San Diego's stature as one of the world's top biotech centers. Now, commercialization is starting to take place. Local biotechs are testing stem cell therapies in patients, in the United States, in Europe and in China.

Cures for diabetes, heart failure, and even baldness are being developed by San Diego companies; the last two already being tested in patients. While these treatments are still experimental — success is far from certain — they provide a preliminary indication that regenerative medicine is on the road to becoming a new growth area for the region's large biotechnology industry.

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