

Young Plasma Transfer Now Starting Clinical Trials Following Animal Studies Demonstrating Restored Learning and Memory



Joseph S. McCracken, DVM
VP Business Development
Alkahest Inc.

www.alkahest.com

Contact:

Joseph S. McCracken, DVM
jmccracken@alkahest.com

Interview conducted by:
Lynn Fosse, Senior Editor
CEOCFO Magazine

“Our scientific founder demonstrated that he could enhance learning and memory in aged mice, which you may or may not find interesting; but if you could do that in elderly humans with neurodegenerative diseases, that would be very interesting.”-
Joseph S. McCracken, DVM

CEOCFO: Mr. McCracken, what is the idea behind Alkahest?

Mr. McCracken: Alkahest was actually established to continue the work of Professor Tony Wyss-Coray at Stanford University. Tony had done something that at one level was quiet simple, but at a deeper level was quite elegant. Using several techniques he took plasma from young mice and transferred it into older

mice. He showed that when he did that, he could enhance learning and memory in several well established models of learning and memory in mice. He could also show corresponding changes in the proteins that circulate in the bodies of these animals, and he could show structural changes in the brain such as increased neurogenesis and synaptic activity that are associated with enhanced learning and memory. These results suggest a rejuvenating effect of young plasma when administered to older animals. He also did similar experiments transferring plasma from older animals to young animals, and saw the opposite effects.

CEOCFO: Where does Alkahest come in? Would you tell us about the technology you are developing today?

Mr. McCracken: Alkahest was established to continue Professor Wyss-Coray’s work, and to determine if it is possible to reproduce his observations from animal experiments in humans. Our scientific founder demonstrated that he could enhance learning and memory in aged mice, which you may or may not find interesting; but if you could do that in elderly humans with neurodegenerative diseases, that would be very interesting. In fact, on the Alzheimer’s Association website, they suggest that if you could delay the disabling symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease by 5 years, you could reduce the incidence of the disease by nearly 50%. That would have an enormous socioeconomic impact and it would be hugely important to patients with Alzheimer’s disease, their care-givers and their families. That is the mission that we would like to go after.

At Alkahest we have initiated a long process to first demonstrate the safety of infusions of young plasma from healthy donors, and ultimately to demonstrate efficacy in patients with Alzheimer’s Disease. If we can do that, then step two is to identify fractions of young plasma that have enhanced activity and or safety over whole plasma. Then lastly to identify individual molecules in plasma that might be reproduced synthetically or recombinately in an unlimited supply, in order to treat patients with Alzheimer’s and other age related conditions.

CEOCFO: Would you explain the need for synthetically reproducing plasma?

Mr. McCracken: We are not actually trying to produce “synthetic plasma”. Plasma is now readily available, but it would not be available in an unlimited manner or to treat all the patients with Alzheimer’s Disease who might benefit from such a treatment. That is why we are trying to evolve from whole plasma to fractions of plasma with enhanced activity as well and practical and ethical benefits over whole plasma. Then ultimately to identify and produce individual molecules that may be