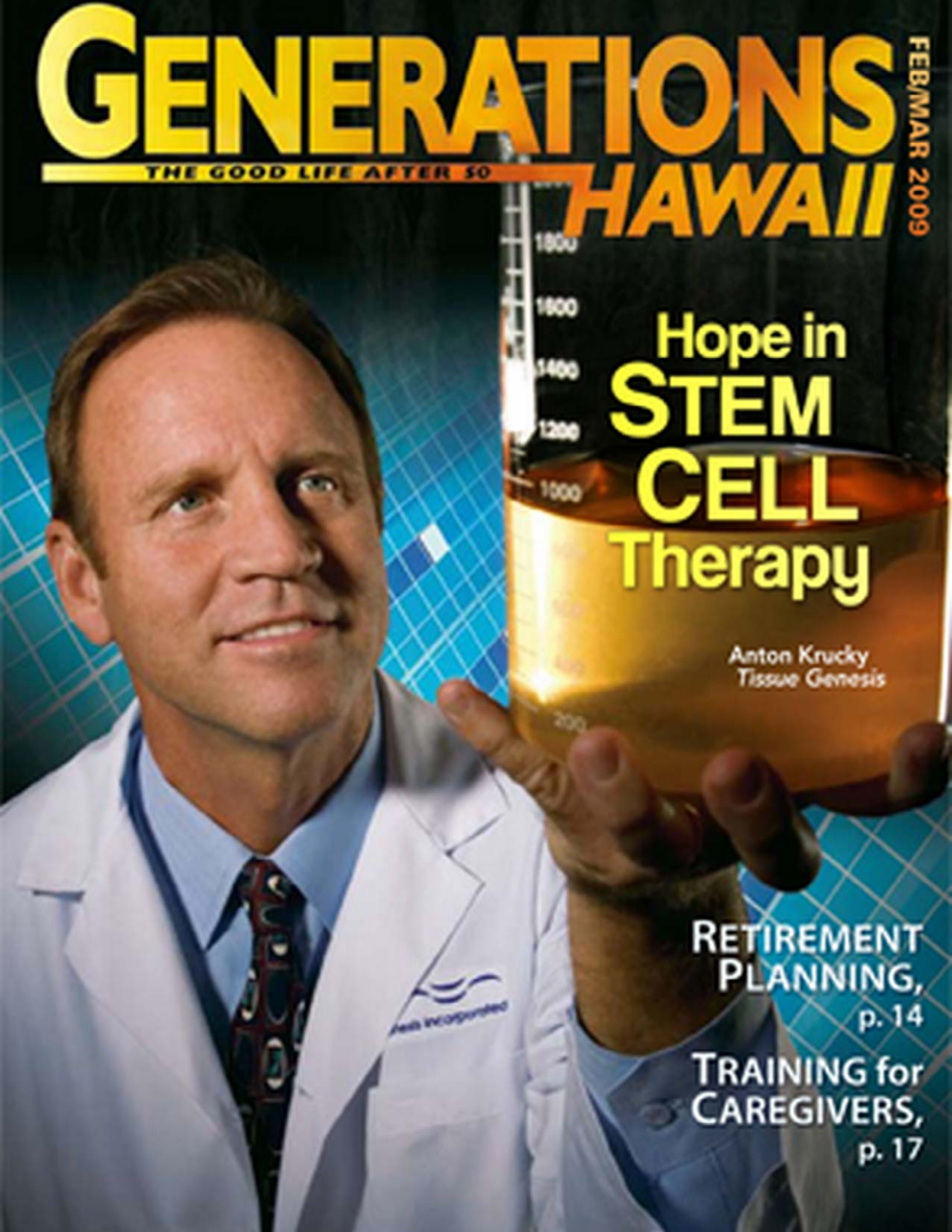


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# HAWAII

FEB/MAR 2009



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Therapy**

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## hope in STEM CELL therapy



**By Eddie Sherman**

On the top floor of the former Gold Bond Building, with a spectacular view of Oahu in all directions, sits Tissue Genesis, a local high-tech, multimillion consortium that is in the process of developing medical technology (and hopefully history) that will one day heal various diseases, repair damaged tissue in all parts of the body and address numerous medical problems - using the patient's own regenerative stem cells.

Tissue Genesis' focus is mainly on vascular problems. The company is using its own special cell isolation system, which it developed, for processing these cells. So just what are stem cells anyway? They sometimes are called "master cells" - cells that can be manipulated in a laboratory to become any other kind of cell in the body. Incredible.

The major purpose of stem cell therapy, of course, is to cure disease. Injecting a patient's own stem cells to damaged areas of the body can repair a person's damaged body. As a result, doctors and scientists all over the world are hard at work testing and finding ways to prove their various therapies ... In Japan, for example, they are testing stem cells from wisdom teeth ... In England, patients are arriving from all over the world for special heart clinical trials ... And ditto in the U.S. ... Including hospitals in Asia ... Don Ho even traveled to Thailand for an experimental stem cell procedure for his ailing heart. It helped - only briefly. Transplanting stem cells into the brains of people with Parkinson's has helped alleviate symptoms ... A 2-year-old boy with a rare genetic disease was reported cured with his own stem cells. And leukemia patients with no hope have been helped ... Scientists have rebuilt rat and pig hearts ... This medical breakthrough with stem cells could help millions worldwide who suffer heart failure ... And now cancer researchers are poised to begin a revolutionary approach for treating cancer ... Work is going on to treat almost every known disease to mankind with stem cells ... Sickle-cell anemia from cells made from skin ... Major respiratory ailments ... All kinds of heart problems ... Leukemia ... Just about any medical problem can be helped one way or another. It's just mind-boggling what the future holds - thanks to stem cells ... The largest spender on scientific stem cell research, of course, is America. However, Japan is not far behind ... Including Europe ... Everybody in the medical world is jumping on the stem cell bandwagon.

Yes, stem cells have helped many diseases, including Alzheimer's, diabetes and Parkinson's, besides heart. And the list is growing. One of the first things that entered my mind when I visited Tissue Genesis' offices was - why would such a multimillion-dollar company be located in Hawaii instead of a major metropolis? So that was one of the first questions I asked the physically trim and personable Anton Krucky, president and chief exec of this local company. Anton smiled. "Maybe it's because my Hawaiian mother is from the Big Island and came to Oahu to train as a nurse at Queen's Hospital long ago when it was a teaching facility. My father was a sailor in the Navy and experienced the Pearl Harbor attack. I was born in Tokyo, raised on the mainland and two of my sisters were Cherry Blossom Princesses. I eventually returned to Hawaii to work as the general

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manager of IBM and later I became enraptured by scientists and their work. This was introduced to me by Tom Cannon, our current general manager at Tissue Genesis. So, I started the company in the year 2000 in Hawaii where the business is registered." "How do you explain what Tissue Genesis does?" I asked.

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