Obituary: Professor Eugene Bell

20th October 1918 – 22nd June 2007

Eugene Bell, 88, a Creator of Skin Cells for Grafting, Dies

Eugene Bell who was one of the undisputed pioneers in the commercialization of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine has died at his home in Boston of heart failure. He was 88. Dr Bell was born in New York City and grew up in the Bronx. He originally studied Maths and Physics at New York University but he volunteered to serve in the Army during World War II and was wounded during his service in the Pacific. He finished his studies after the war and then obtained a doctorate from Brown University and joined the faculty of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1956. In the 1970s when Eugene was a professor of Biology at MIT he mixed fibroblasts with collagen to produce a cell populated collagen lattice which then contracted *in vitro* and produced a matrix that

his group then used to look at mesenchymal epithelia interactions that take place during organ formation and repair. That was why, in 1986, he called the first Biotech Company that he founded 'Organogenesis' as their mission was to form organs *in vitro* by assembling them from their constituent parts. He moved from Organogenesis in 1991 to return briefly to MIT before starting his second company, TEI Biosciences, also in Boston which this time looked at the influences that could be made by extracellular matrix on the action and behavior of cells. Last year he set up an endowed fellowship in Tissue Engineering at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole.

Author

Written by Paul Kemp, Intercytex, Innovation House, Crewe Road, Manchester, M23 9QR, UK