

PARTNERSEARCH LIFESCIENCE/HEALTH CALL 2005-1.2.4-1 - TISSUE ENGINEERING

Austrian public holding of a group of general hospitals, specialized clinics and health schools seeks participation in Integrated Project under slot LSH-2005-1.2.4-1: **Tissue engineering approaches to treating children with birth defects.**

The department involved is a leading **children's heart centre**, running Austria's largest paediatric cardiac programme, performing approximately 300 cardiac surgeries per year. It is specialized in treating complex congenital heart defects from the fetus, neonate, young infant to adulthood. A highly specialized and well trained team of physicians, nurses and technicians takes care of the patients and runs one of the largest programmes in Europe for treating „hypoplastic left heart syndrome“.

Treating complex heart malformations frequently requires insertion of new cardiac valves or vessels tissue (homografts), which have several disadvantages. Thus, tissue engineering (e.g. to produce cardiac valves) is of major interest to the institution.

The department can offer vast clinical experience, excellent diagnostics (invasive and non-invasive) and highest-level paediatric cardiac surgery. Our infrastructure is optimal having good co-operations with geneticists and pathologists. This background would be very useful to set up a research lab performing in-vitro and /or animal experiments as well as conducting early clinical trials.

In addition to the scientific excellence of the department directly involved, the holding has EC project experience (current IP participation) and scalable administrative capabilities (nearly 10.000 employees) and vast general test-bed capabilities (over one million patients per year). This would allow various types of participation. If requested, even a central role in the overall project coordination could be assigned to the holding.

PLEASE CONTACT

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