

## Current Status of HBP Research Field

## Case of Basic Research I

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As a surgeon, it has been difficult for me to maintain research career for over 10 years. I was interested in regenerative medicine and stem cell biology. Compared to translational medicine, this field is time consuming and labor oriented research field. In terms of initiation and history of my research, I started research at Korean NIH from 1999 as a military service. However, hepatic stem cell research at that time made me crazy to stay one more year at Korean NIH. From that time, I have done many experiments related hepatic stem cell research including hepatocyte transplantation and pluripotent stem cell research (iPS and ES cell research). I have been published several papers related to hepatic stem cell research.<sup>1-5</sup> From over 10 years of research dedicated to hepatic stem cells made me feel pluripotent stem cells derived hepatocytes with tissue engineering technique could be one of the most possible therapeutic tools for chronic liver disease patients in the near future. These techniques will help the patients who have chronic liver diseases and decrease the number of waiting lists of liver transplantation and reduce costs of the treatment of chronic liver disease patients.

And I have learned several lessons from over ten years of basic research. To do basic research as a clinician, I think we have to establish firm purpose of basic research, collect of powerful and clean clinical samples for basic research, win and manage research fund for basic research, educate the other clinicians for basic research, and collaborate with other doctors and researchers with open mind.

## References

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