



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOYBEANS SAVING SKIN IN FAYETTE COUNTY

Uniontown, PA – A Dunbar Township company is revolutionizing medicine by creating healing “skin” from soybeans.

NeuEsse Inc., an emerging regenerative medicine development company, created its flagship product, OmegaSkin, to repair and regenerate diseased, traumatized and aging skin. Its mission is to improve patient treatment and outcomes by using a plant-based, human skin substitute.

The soybean protein is spun into a mesh patch or scaffold, which is then applied to the body as a bandage or by using a touch-free, spray device to promote wound closure, healing and skin regeneration.

OmegaSkin can be electrospun into large sheets for shelf storage and immediate application when needed. The touch-free option is ideal for burns, and its device is portable, military-grade and available at any point of injury to deliver skin substitutes and other therapeutics for both military and civilian patients.

NeuEsse founder Joe Connell, 63, of Dunbar Township, said OmegaSkin promotes wound healing with less scarring, while keeping patients’ hair follicles and sweat glands intact.

“This skin substitute will change the future of medicine due to efficacy, affordability and acceptability,” Connell said. “We believe the product will be acceptable to millions of patients whose religions or cultures presently prohibit the use of skin substitutes derived from cadavers, pigs and cows. A plant-based skin substitute will bridge this gap.”

The soybean skin was originally invented by Dr. Peter Lelkes, chairman of Temple University’s Bioengineering Department. The prototype received a United States patent, but required a caustic solvent for manufacturing.

A Connellsville native, Connell then founded the NeuEsse company using licensing technology from Temple, commercialized Lelkes’ technology and continues to publish the team’s ongoing research. After moving from Drexel to Temple University, Lelkes discovered a way to make the skin water soluble and, in turn, made manufacturing much more feasible. The product’s latest patent protection is worldwide.

“OmegaSkin costs less than other products on the market due to the source of the technology - protein from a common soybean,” Connell said. “We intend to make it available to third world countries presently unable to afford our competitors.”

A Connellsville Area High School graduate, Connell moved back to the area three years ago and knew he wanted to bring his company with him.

“With proper support, we can locate our manufacturing, sales and distribution here or anywhere as a virtual corporation,” Connell said. “We hope to establish a presence here in Fayette County.”

For more information about OmegaSkin, contact Connell at jpconnell@neuesse.com or visit www.neuesse.com.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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