

World-renowned Cancer Specialist Dr. Sam Bernal

Finding a breakthrough in regenerative medicine

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO / AJPress



Galing Pinoy showcases the triumph of the Filipino spirit - the Filipino's innate perseverance to rise above. A double entendre, Galing Pinoy literally translates to both coming from (or brought to you by) the Filipino and Filipino ingenuity.



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FILIPINOS have been so used to their country being poor and being referred to as the "sick man of Asia," that many think of their people as somehow "inferior" to those belonging to first-world countries. Stories of Filipinos being recognized as global leaders in various fields of excellence are few and far between. Thus, this story about Dr. Sam Bernal, a Filipino-American who has become a world-renowned cancer specialist and has been revolutionizing the field of medicine, would undoubtedly make Filipinos everywhere proud.



Dr. Bernal graduated with a degree in Chemistry in 1969 from the University of Illinois. From 1969 to 1974 he was a researcher at the University of Chicago, and earned a Ph.D. degree in Biochemical Pathology in 1974. In 1975, he completed his medical studies and obtained an M.D. degree from the University of Chicago.

Dr. Samuel Bernal is a professor of medicine in UCLA and a former assistant professor at the Harvard Medical School. Bernal is also a medical doctor, an esteemed cancer researcher, a lawyer specializing in Regulatory Law and Medical Malpractice, a chemist, a molecular biologist, a PhD and MBA degree holder, a cancer director in several US hospitals, a leading figure in stem cell research, cancer therapy and bio-regenerative medicine, the founder and chairman of Strata Lucida and LA-Boston Bioresearch Fund, the author of several books on oncology and cancer research, a director of various business organizations and foundations, and the consultant adviser on Regenerative Medicine Program for The Medical City in the Philippines.

or aging. It is a procedure that allows the patient to, quite literally, be his own healer.



The key lies in stem cells or "master cells," which have the ability to grow into any one of the body's 200 cell types or sensitized to attack diseased cells, including malignant tumors. They can replicate themselves many times over and theoretically, do so without limit, so long as the person is alive. Therein lays the power of the treatment.

Dr. Sam Bernal is also a cancer survivor. He thought he was dying and he applied what he discovered about regenerative medicine on himself. Seeing and experiencing the astounding results, Dr. Bernal has become the major proponent of this innovative field in medicine. Regenerative medicine is a new branch of medicine in which cell and tissue based therapies are applied to the treatments of various diseases. It promises to revolutionize the treatment of diseases such as cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, and other degenerative diseases. The field has been spurred in recent years by rapid advances in molecular and cell biology, providing insights into the remarkable self-healing properties of our human cells.

"We're working with the patient's own living cells. That's what makes this different from other treatments using conventional, often toxic, drugs and devices," explains Dr. Samuel Bernal.

Now, people from around the world go to Dr. Sam Bernal and his team for much-needed help. The doctor has said that regenerative medicine can turn sick bodies into like brand-new ones. People experiencing ailments, which before have no known cure, can now look unto the future with a new sense of hope. With the latest discoveries in regenerative medicine, the life expectancy in dreaded conditions such as cancer is extended. Those who've undergone the procedure experience a rebirth of sorts; that, much like Lazarus, is given a "resurrection".

One successful case is that of a baby named Rafa. Stem cells were taken from his own body, allowed to regenerate and were reintroduced into the baby's body as organ repair agents. The results were amazing. No more seizures and his wrinkled body became smooth and baby like again.

Regenerative Medicine involves the engineering of living cells, tissues and organs to preserve and enhance organ function and improve the quality of life. Proponents of the treatment like Dr. Bernal say it can be used to prevent disease and maintain wellness, as well as restore organ function lost or impaired due to disease, injury,

"Instead of relying on toxic chemicals to combat disease or donated organs to restore lost function, we're using the patients' cells to combat their cancers or regenerate their own organs," explained Dr. Bernal. "But the purpose of Regenerative Medicine is not only to treat patients who are already ill but also prevent disease," he added.

Because of all his work, Dr. Samuel Bernal has significantly made the Philippines several steps ahead of other countries in the field of regenerative medicine.

Enrico-Tarzana Hospital.

Dr. Bernal completed his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1997 at the Loyola University Law School in Los Angeles. He specializes in Regulatory Law, particularly FDA and FTC regulations and in Medical Malpractice. He is a licensed attorney in California State Courts and the US Federal Court.

Dr. Bernal also completed an MBA degree in a business program for company presidents at Pepperdine University, in Malibu, California, specializing in biotechnology business strategies. He is a founder and chairman of Strata Lucida, a biotechnology company based in California, and of LA-Boston Bioresearch Fund, a biotechnology research and consulting organization.

Dr. Bernal published several books in the field of oncology research. He is an active member of the American Association of Clinical Oncologists, a researcher-member of the American Association of Cancer Researchers, and a recognized cancer investigator with the National Institutes of Health. He has served as consultant and panel presenter for FDA and FTC cases involving medical devices, nutritional supplements and pharmaceuticals.

Thru the years, Dr. Bernal has seen to it that he still kept strong ties to the Philippines. He is currently an adviser with Medical City and is a visiting professor at the University of the Philippines. His outstanding medical and research contributions have significantly improved and extended the lives of so many people in the world, and will continue to do so in the generations to come.

Dr. Bernal stresses that the patient's well-being is the doctor's foremost concern. "This is not an academic exercise. This is about making patients' lives better." ■

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