

## JDRF Names Islet Cell Transplant Center

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) has named The City of Hope National Medical Center in Los Angeles as a JDRF Islet Cell Transplant Center.

The islet transplantation program at The City of Hope has performed the second most islet transplants in North America during 2004 and 2005. The University of Edmonton, which developed the protocol for human islet cell transplantation in 2000, has performed the most. The institution has been designated as one of only a handful of Islet Cell Resource Centers by the National Institutes of Health/JDRF. It developed the first Clinical

Islet Transplant Fellowship program for training endocrinologists in the United States.

“As a JDRF center, we are confident that the City of Hope can continue its rapid development of research and treatment programs in islet cell supply and transplantation, which will certainly be a significant addition to our efforts to accelerate the pace of research leading to the development of cures and treatments for type 1 diabetes and its complications,” said Richard A. Insel, MD, executive vice president of research in a news release. For more information, please visit [www.jdrf.org](http://www.jdrf.org).

## Avocado Oil Marketed For Healthy Eating

Olivado Gourmet Foods (Kerikeri, New Zealand) has created an avocado-based cooking oil. Made from avocados grown in Australia and New Zealand, the oil has >4 times beta-sitosterol compared with olive oil. With no cholesterol and no carbohydrates, Olivado Avocado Oil is a healthy alternative to olive oil, its makers said in a news release.

According to a recent Ohio State University study, adding avocado oil to salads boosts the intake of antioxidants and other beneficial nutrients. Avocados also contain high amounts of lutein alpha and beta-carotene. For more information, please visit [www.olivado.com](http://www.olivado.com).



## FDA Approves Duetact

The US Food and Drug Administration has approved Duetact (Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Lincolnshire, Ill), a combination therapy for the treatment of type 2 diabetes.

Duetact combines pioglitazone and glimepiride, in a single tablet. Combining these medications may provide patients with an easier way to take the two drugs. Duetact will be available in two commonly used dosages taken once daily and is expected to be available to patients later this year. For more information, please visit [www.tpna.com/prdetail.asp?articleid=125](http://www.tpna.com/prdetail.asp?articleid=125).

## Insulet, Aetna Announce Agreement

Insulet (Bedford, Mass), developer and manufacturer of OmniPod Insulin Management System, has signed an agreement with Aetna US Healthcare (Hartford, Conn) adding the OmniPod System to Aetna's network of covered products for diabetes management.

“This agreement with Aetna is a major milestone in Insulet's ongoing mission to improve the lives of people with diabetes,” said Duane DeSisto, president and CEO of Insulet, in a news release. “It makes the OmniPod System — and continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion therapy, considered one of the best therapies for insulin-dependent diabetes — more accessible to Aetna members living with diabetes in the United States.”

For more information, please visit [www.myomnipod.com](http://www.myomnipod.com).

## Generex Launches New Form of Glucose

Generex Biotechnology (Toronto), an innovator of drug delivery systems, launched a new over-the-counter Glucose Rapid Spray product at the American Association of Diabetes Educators 33rd Annual Meeting & Exhibition in Los Angeles.

Glucose Rapid Spray is an alternative for people who require or want additional glucose in their diet; the product delivers fat-free low-calorie glucose formulation directly into the mouth where it is rapidly absorbed. For more information, please visit [www.generex.com/products/glucose\\_rapidspray](http://www.generex.com/products/glucose_rapidspray). ■