

Stem Cell Researcher Goes Mum

The growing buzz over stem cell research has cut a swath at UCI, thanks to a faculty member whose influence is partially credited for the passage of Proposition 71 last year.

Hans Keirstead, an assistant professor of anatomy and neurobiology at UCI, has used a treatment based on human embryonic stem cells to make paralyzed lab rats walk again.

The professor is working with Geron Corp., a Menlo Park-based biotech company that provided his lab with some \$500,000 in research funding.

Keirstead's efforts were featured last month in the New York Times, which highlighted both those who praise his work and critics who worry that the scientist is leading the field of stem cell research into uncharted territory.

The Business Journal was scheduled to chat earlier this month with Keirstead about his work and his relationship with Geron, which holds several of the more significant patents in stem cell research.

Instead, Keirstead canceled the interview, saying he's busy with getting his new research paper published.