7 Companies to Follow Who Are Working on a Hair Loss Cure

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:
Hair Loss Cure: What's on the Horizon for Hair Loss Treatments?

Hoping for a cure for your hair loss? The following companies are your best chances. Learn more about each, their techniques, and when their treatments will become available.

1. Shiseido/Replicel

Replicel's treatment, called RCH-01, involves culturing a person's own hair follicle cells and then re-injecting them back into their scalp. They take a small punch biopsy of healthy hair follicles and culture them in a growth medium until they're turned into millions of new cells. The new cells are then injected back into the patient's scalp.They've entered into a partnership with Shiseido, the fourth largest cosmetic company in the world. Shiseido later opened a massive biotechnology facility in Japan to accelerate the launch and distribution of RCH-01. They are currently trialing in Japan for market approval by the end of 2018.

2. Fidia Pharma (Brotzu Lotion)

This hair growth treatment was created by Dr. Giovanni Brotzu, a vascular surgeon in Italy. Dr. Brotzu was treating vascular insufficiency in patients with diabetes when he noticed the drug grew hair on patients' legs. They tested it on the scalp and the results were promising. They changed it slightly so it wouldn't be classified as a drug (meaning faster clinical trials and availability over the counter). Later, the formula was acquired by pharmaceutical company Fidia Pharma. Fidia says the treatment should be available by the end of 2018.

3. Samumed

Samumed's product, SM04554, is a small-molecule topical solution that activates the Wnt pathway to grow hair. They presented their phase 2 results at the American Academy of Dermatology. Their treatment increased hair density by 10%, which isn't life-changing, but it's a step in the right direction. The company is looking for ways to optimize their drug to improve efficiency.

4. Tsuji-Riken/Organ Technologies

Dr. Takashi Tsuji (at the Riken Institute in Japan) leads one of the most advanced stem cell labs in the world. His treatment involves extracting hair follicles from a person's head, isolating two types of cells, expanding them in a growth medium, combining them to recreate a hair follicle "germ," and then transporting them back into the person's scalp to ultimately grow a new follicle

and hair. This treatment is very promising because it's backed by two strategic partners: Kyocera, a Japanese electronics company (to develop equipment for the procedure), and Organ Technologies, a regenerative medicine company (for stem cell culturing and manipulation). Release is expected in 2020.

5. Histogen

Histogen's Hair Stimulating Complex is an injectable serum designed to stimulate the growth of new follicles. It's derived from neonatal cells grown under embryonic-like conditions. The treatment works for both men and women and even grows hair at the temples, one of the hardest places to regrow hair. This is an attractive treatment because of the ease of application. Theoretically, you could walk into a clinic and receive a quick injection without needing to harvest your own cells. Release expected late 2018.

6. Follica

This company's co-founder is one of the most recognizable names in hair follicle research, Dr. George Cotsarelis. Follica's treatment involves creating micro-wounds in the scalp in order to trigger follicle generation. Their early results were not inspiring, but they're now combining new compounds to influence the healing process after wounding. Their treatment is called RAIN, a micro-wounding therapy and applied compounds, followed by a topical you use at home. Clearance trials expected to start in 2018.

7. Cassiopea

Cassiopoea's treatment Breezula is a topical anti-androgen. Unlike other anti-androgens that block the production of DHT, Breezula blocks DHT's ability to bind to androgen receptors on hair follicles. They report no hormonal side effects. It also reduces the production of PGD2, a compound that inhibits hair growth. More information expected late 2018/early 2019.