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<< CANCER TREATMENT (Continued): At the MD Anderson Cancer Center, Dr. Steven Curley, a surgical oncologist, began to work closely with Kanzius on his invention. Dr. Curley believes the potential treatment to be the most exciting new development he has seen in twenty years of working in oncology. Like an "ultimate weed killer" able to kill weeds without harming grass, the treatment is designed to destroy only the cancer cells. The ability to eliminate solid tumors injected with gold nanoparticles has already been demonstrated in rats and rabbits.

The ultimate goal is to be able to target microscopic cancer cells that have circulated throughout the body. Curing metastatic cancers would not be possible without such a selective delivery system. If a way is found to precisely target and destroy only cancer cells, then the potential to cure many types of cancers is tremendous – and with no pain and distress.

John Kanzius is working with the Lee Memorial Health System in southwest Florida to coordinate tentative clinical trials after approval is granted. He hopes to live to see his dream realized some three or four years down the road.

New Blood Test Can Help Predict Risk of Stroke, Heart Attack and Heart Failure

Back in "early 2007" a simple blood test measuring the amount of a protein - called **NT-proBNP** - was shown to be highly predictive of cardiovascular events in patients with established coronary heart disease.

In a study of almost 1,000 heart patients believed to have stable heart disease, those with the highest blood levels of the protein were eight times more likely to have a heart attack, stroke or heart failure during a 3.7-year study than those with the lowest levels of **NT-proBNP**.

Among the study participants, patients with highest **NT-proBNP** level had the strongest association with heart failure. Eighty cases of heart failure were reported during the study, compared with only three cases among patients with the lowest protein levels. There were four times as many heart attacks and four times as many strokes in study patients with the highest **NT-proBNP** levels, compared to those with lower protein measurements.

The test is currently in use in hospital emergency departments to assist ER doctors in identifying heart failure in patients presenting with shortness of breath and other established symptoms. In addition to echocardiograms, stress tests, and other protein biomarkers, the new blood test may be able help physicians to pinpoint heart patients with the highest risks.

SEE BLOOD TEST ##