
Company gets OK for drug trial

DERRY TWP. • Starting next year, a Hershey-based biotechnology company will begin clinical trials on an experimental drug that could be used to treat cancer.

Apogee, which operates out of the Hershey Center for Applied Research, said Wednesday that it had received federal approval to begin the first phase of clinical trials for its drug, ABC294640.

The company said its research leads it to believe that the experimental drug acts as an inhibitor for an enzyme that controls the growth of tumors.

"In the medical world, finding a cure for cancer is unrealistic, but creating a treatment that prolongs the life and improves the quality of life for patients suffering from cancer is achievable," Vice President Lynn Maines said.

The initial clinical trial will focus on the safety of the drug, which will be used to treat pancreatic cancer patients.

BACKGROUND: Apogee Biotechnology Corp. formed in 2001 as a spin-out company from the Penn State College of Medicine.

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