

Press release

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StemSight granted patent for scalable stem cell technology targeting corneal blindness

Finnish regenerative medicine company strengthens its IP portfolio and advances commercialization of off-the-shelf cell therapies ahead of upcoming Series A financing round

TAMPERE, Finland (June 16th, 2026) – [StemSight](#), a Finnish biotechnology company developing off-the-shelf regenerative cell therapies for curing blindness, has been granted a patent in Singapore, and received a notice of patent allowance in Canada and Japan, covering the company's proprietary technology. The patents strengthen StemSight's position in the rapidly emerging field of off-the-shelf regenerative medicine and come as the company prepares for its upcoming Series A financing round.

The granted patent family, titled Method for Obtaining or Maintaining ABCG2-Positive Corneal Limbal Cells, protects StemSight's unique approach in developing STE-101, the Company's novel product for replacing lost limbal stem cells used in the treatment of limbal stem cell deficiency (LSCD), a severe form of corneal blindness for which many patients currently have no effective treatment options. StemSight's proprietary technology utilizes the generation of functional limbal stem cells from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS cells), a virtually unlimited starting material, creating the foundation for truly off-the-shelf regenerative therapies that can be manufactured consistently and delivered at scale. This marks a fundamentally different and more practical approach from existing treatment options that require cells derived from adult corneal biopsies.

"These newly granted patents in three sophisticated markets for medical products represent a major milestone for StemSight and validate years of scientific development work by our team. Our proprietary technology enables scalable, standardized production of limbal stem cells, which we believe is essential to making regenerative therapies commercially viable and to making advanced regenerative treatments accessible to patients with few or no treatment options. From the beginning, our goal has been to build regenerative therapies that can move beyond bespoke treatments with limited availability to simpler, more accessible one-and-done cures to patients globally. Securing these patents further strengthens our position as we advance toward clinical development and prepare for our next stage of growth," said **Laura Koivusalo**, CEO and co-founder of StemSight.

These achievements in StemSight's patent portfolio mark an important advancement in the company's broader intellectual property strategy around iPSC cell-derived ocular therapies and regenerative medicine manufacturing technologies. While the first patents in this family have now been granted in Singapore, followed by patent allowances in Canada and Japan, corresponding patent applications remain pending across other major markets globally, including Europe, the United States, India, and South Korea. The company also recently advanced another patent family covering methods for differentiating corneal endothelial cell-like cells from pluripotent stem cells, with the patent now progressing toward approval in Japan. The technology supports StemSight's future pipeline development, with the goal of eliminating issues linked to the global shortage of donor corneal tissue.

The company also announced an investment from a new investor, Life Science Invest (LSI Zeta), a Nordic network of business angels in life sciences, further reinforcing confidence in StemSight's technology platform and long-term commercial potential.

"In our search across the Nordic life science ecosystem, StemSight clearly stood out through its exceptional science, significant unmet patient need, and a remarkably strong team," said **Kristian Klerfalk**, of LSI Zeta.

"With the first patent now granted and backing from a new investor secured, StemSight is entering an important growth phase as we prepare for Series A financing and future clinical development. Very few companies are developing scalable, off-the-shelf regenerative therapies specifically for ophthalmology. We believe StemSight is uniquely positioned to become a global leader in regenerative ophthalmology," said **Ross Macdonald**, Chief Commercial Officer at StemSight.

StemSight is currently advancing its lead program (STE-101) toward clinical readiness while expanding its broader pipeline of iPSC cell-derived ophthalmic therapies.

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For additional information:

[Media kit with pictures](#)

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About StemSight

StemSight develops advanced stem cell therapies to restore vision in patients with severe corneal blindness. Combining cutting-edge science with a patient-focused mission, the company aims to transform treatment options for debilitating ocular conditions. At its core, StemSight leverages Nobel Prize-winning iPS cell technology to manufacture corneal cells in a scalable, cost-effective manner. Unlike traditional donor-dependent solutions, StemSight's readily available, off-the-shelf therapy provides a scalable, consistent, and accessible alternative. By combining these cells with biomaterials, the company offers a targeted, donor-independent solution for vision loss. StemSight's first target indication is Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency (LSCD), a rare but severe condition that leads to corneal blindness. In the future, the company aims to expand its pipeline to address additional ocular diseases, further broadening its impact on vision restoration.

About STE-101

StemSight's lead cell therapy product for limbal stem cell deficiency, STE-101, consists of limbal stem cells (LSCs) intended to replace the patient's own LSCs that have been lost or damaged by disease or injury in limbal stem cell deficiency (LSCD). These transplanted LSCs then maintain the renewal of corneal epithelial cells, which are essential for normal vision. STE-101 is, in turn, derived from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) using StemSight's patented technology, which enables the differentiation and expansion of LSCs that express ABCG2, a cell-surface protein associated with early progenitor cells. While ABCG2 expression is typically transient in corneal epithelial cell differentiation, StemSight's method can halt the differentiation process at this particular phase of development, while multiplying the number of cells enabling large-scale manufacturing. The company believes this high proportion of ABCG2-expressing limbal stem cells may enhance STE-101's ability to repopulate the limbal stem cell pool in the cornea for prolonged corneal regeneration, as they represent a very early progenitor cell type. STE-101 is currently in late-stage pre-clinical development with the Company expecting to commence clinical trials in humans in 2028.