



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor Jacobs Small Business Series Features NellOne Therapeutics

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs interviews Bill Malkes and Dr. Cymbeline “Bem” Culiati of NellOne Therapeutics as part of his small business series.

Each week, the Mayor conducts interviews with small business owners, offering them the opportunity to talk about what they do; to highlight their work; and share any future plans.

This month, the series focuses on technology-related businesses and operations. A new vignette runs each Wednesday on the county and Mayor’s various social media platforms.

NellOne, an Oak Ridge-based early-stage biopharmaceutical company, develops and commercializes protein therapeutics to treat skin damage caused by radiation burns, major trauma, and cardiac tissue injury after heart attacks.

The talented protein, called Nell-1, is helping to plot a new future for regenerative medicine.

“Nell-1 is a signaling protein, so it kind of tells your body what to do as you’re developing,” said Bill Malkes, CEO.

Dr. Cymbeline “Bem” Culiati, co-founder of the company, called the protein “a revolutionary change.”

“For a long-time I think we had to put up with band-aid solutions,” she said. “NellOne is not a band-aid solution. It is a curative approach . . . so that your original injury doesn’t debilitate you or kill you.”

Mayor Jacobs agreed.

“A lot of our medicines and drugs right now – they’re addressing the symptom, which is important, but ultimately they are not the cure. They are a long-term band-aid. Whereas, what we are seeing now through improvements and knowledge of genetics and biology – that’s the revolution. As you said: It’s curative and no longer simply symptomatic.”

To hear more of what was said, check out the [video](#).

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