# Clinical Trials A Brief Description

Clinical trials are research studies in which patients help doctors find ways to improve health and cancer care. Each study tries to answer scientific questions and to find better ways to prevent, diagnose, or treat cancer.

A clinical trial is one of the final stages of a long and careful cancer research process. Studies are done with cancer patients to find out whether new approaches to cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment are safe and effective.



Therion Biologics Corporation is currently enrolling patients in clinical trials to evaluate its cancer vaccines.



To see if you meet eligibility requirements, please consult your physician.

# Answers to Commonly Asked Questions

Cancer Vaccines

–A Patient's Guide–



### Cancer Vaccines: A Patient's Guide

#### • What is a cancer vaccine?

Cancer vaccines work on the theory that your body's immune system can be taught to fight cancer. These vaccines are potentially therapeutic, in that they are designed to help stop the progression of cancer once you have the disease. This is different from other vaccines, like those for polio or measles, which are designed to prevent a person from catching the disease.

# • How might cancer vaccines work?

Normally, cancer cells continue to grow without triggering the immune system to fight them. Therion's vaccines can help the immune system to "see" specific targets, present only on cancer cells. Clinical trials are currently under way to determine if these vaccines work.

# • What are the potential benefits?

Most of the current cancer therapies attack cancer using chemicals or radiation. These treatments often have traumatic side effects such as nosebleeds, sores in the mouth or on the lips, loss of hair, weakness, and decreased white blood cell count with increased risk of infection. Because cancer vaccines trigger the patient's own immune system to fight the cancer, the side effects are expected to be much less severe. It is Therion's hope that its cancer vaccines will help the patient fight cancer while lessening the traumatic side effects common with most existing therapies.

# Online Resources

American Cancer Society
www.cancer.org

**Dana Farber Institute** www.dfci.harvard.edu

National Cancer Institute www.nci.nih.gov

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease

www.niaid.nih.gov

Therion Biologics Corporation www.therionbio.com