Dr. Lisa Stehno-Bittel

Dr. Lisa Stehno-Bittel has been a diabetes researcher for the past 20 years. In that time her laboratory established modifications in the islet transplant procedure that helped to improve efficiency and reduce early graft failure. Later her lab developed a new method of miniaturizing islets to improve diffusion properties after implantation. In 2012 she licensed her patents from the University of Kansas and started the biotech company, Likarda, using family funds. In 17 months Likarda was profitable, and has been each month since then. Currently Likarda has 9 employees with 2 divisions. LikardaBio uses the miniaturization process to create 3D aggregates for automated high-throughput drug screening. Likarda Animal Health is working on a commercial islet transplant product for diabetic dogs and cats.