

CELL THERAPEUTICS INC  
 Form 424B5  
 September 20, 2006  
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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

File No. 333-131533

**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

(to Prospectus dated April 19, 2006)

**\$50,000,000**

**Common Stock**

**Warrants**

We are offering all of the 23,121,394 shares of our common stock, warrants to purchase up to 5,780,352 shares of our common stock and up to 5,780,352 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of these warrants offered by this prospectus supplement. The offering has an expiry date of September 25, 2006.

For a more detailed description of our common stock, see the section entitled "Description of Capital Stock" beginning on page 5 of the accompanying prospectus. For a more detailed description of the warrants to purchase our common stock being issued in this offering, see the section entitled "Description of Warrants" beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement.

Rodman & Renshaw, LLC acted as the lead placement agent and sole book runner on this transaction. Punk, Ziegel and Company acted as the co-placement agent. For a more detailed description on the methods of sale, see the section entitled "Plan of Distribution" beginning on page S-4 of this prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq National Market and the Nuovo Mercato in Italy under the symbol "CTIC". On September 18, 2006, the last reported sale price of our common stock on the Nasdaq National Market was \$2.08.

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**Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-2 of this prospectus supplement.**

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	Shares	Per Share	Total
Public offering price of common stock and warrants to purchase common stock	23,121,394	\$ 1.73	\$ 40,000,012
Shares issuable upon exercise of warrants (1)	5,780,352	\$ 1.73	\$ 10,000,009
Placement agency fees (2)(3)		\$ 0.865	\$ 2,500,000
Total proceeds to us before other expenses (2)			\$ 47,500,021

- (1) Issuable upon exercise of the warrants within 90 days of the date of issuance of the shares of common stock in this offering for an exercise price of \$1.73 per share.
- (2) Assumes the exercise in full of the warrants to purchase 5,780,352 of common stock at an exercise price of \$1.73 per share. We will not receive any proceeds with respect to the warrants unless and until they are exercised. If no warrants are exercised, the aggregate proceeds from the offering before other expenses would be approximately \$38,000,000. We estimate the total expenses of this offering, excluding placement agent fees will be approximately \$500,000.
- (3)

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A fee equal to 5% of the aggregate proceeds raised in the offering shall be payable to the placement agents. No fee shall be payable to the placement agents unless and until they are exercised.

The common stock and warrants will issued on or about September 21, 2006.

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

This prospectus supplement is dated September 20, 2006

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No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus supplement or related prospectus or to which we have referred you. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representations. This prospectus supplement and related prospectus is an offer to sell only the securities offered hereby but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus supplement and related prospectus is currently only as of its date, and the information contained in any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement and related prospectus or any sale of a security.

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of this offering and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying

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prospectus, which gives more general information about the shares of our common stock and other securities we may offer from time to time under our shelf registration statement, some of which may not apply to our common stock. To the extent there is a conflict between the information contained in this prospectus supplement, on the one hand, and the information contained in the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference therein, on the other hand, the information in this prospectus supplement shall control.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and contained or incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. We have not authorized anyone, including the placement agents, and the placement agent(s) has not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are offering to sell, and seeking offers to buy, our common stock only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. The information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and contained, or incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the respective dates thereof, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, or of any sale of our common stock. It is important for you to read and consider all information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference therein, in making your investment decision. You should also read and consider the information in the documents we have referred you to in **Where You Can Find More Information** in the accompanying prospectus.

### **SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

In addition to the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, you should carefully consider the risk factors contained in and incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus when evaluating an investment in our common stock. This prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ( **Securities Act** ), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ( **Exchange Act** ). All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements for purposes of these provisions, including:

any statement regarding the performance, or likely performance, or outcomes or economic benefit of any licensing or other agreement, including any agreement with Novartis Pharma AG or its affiliates, including whether or not such partner will elect to participate, terminate or otherwise make elections, under any such partnership agreement or whether any regulatory authorizations required to enable such agreement will be obtained;

any projections of earnings, revenues or other financial items;

any statements of the plans and objectives of management for future operations;

any statements concerning proposed new products or services;

any statements regarding future operations, plans, regulatory filings or approvals;

any statements on plans regarding proposed or potential clinical trials or new drug filing strategies;

any statements concerning proposed new products or services, any statements regarding pending or future mergers or acquisitions; and

any statements regarding future economic conditions or performance, and any statement of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing.

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In some cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of terminology such as *may*, *will*, *expects*, *plans*, *anticipates*, *estimates*, *potential*, or *continue* or the negative thereof or other comparable terminology. There can be no assurance that such expectations or any of the forward-looking statements will prove to be correct, and actual results could differ materially from these projected or assumed in the forward-looking statements. Our future financial condition and results of operations, as well as any forward-looking statements, are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, the risk factors set forth in this prospectus. All forward-looking statements and reasons why results may differ included in this prospectus are made as of the date hereof, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statement or reason why actual results might differ.

This prospectus contains and incorporates by reference market data, industry statistics and other data that have been obtained from, or compiled from, information made available by third parties. We have not independently verified their data.

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**SUMMARY**

*The following summary highlights information contained elsewhere, or incorporated by reference, in this prospectus supplement and the related prospectus. The following summary does not contain all the information that you should consider before investing in our common stock. To understand this offering fully, you should read this entire prospectus supplement and related prospectus carefully, including the financial statements and the documents that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Unless otherwise indicated, CTI, Company, we, us, our and similar terms refer to Cell Therapeutics, Inc. and its subsidiaries.*

**Our Company**

We develop, acquire and commercialize novel treatments for cancer. Our goal is to build a leading biopharmaceutical company with a diversified portfolio of proprietary oncology drugs. Our research, development, acquisition and in-licensing activities concentrate on identifying and developing new, less toxic and more effective ways to treat cancer. We are developing XYOTAX, paclitaxel poliglumex, for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer, or NSCLC, and ovarian cancer. Our STELLAR 2, 3, and 4, phase III clinical studies for XYOTAX did not meet our primary endpoint of superior overall survival. In December, 2005, we initiated an additional study, known as the PIONEER, or PGT305, study, for XYOTAX as first-line monotherapy in PS2 women with NSCLC. In February 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, confirmed that XYOTAX qualifies for fast track designation for the treatment of PS2 women with first-line advanced NSCLC. In a meeting with the FDA in the first half of 2006, we agreed on a new drug application, or NDA, submission route for XYOTAX for women with advanced NSCLC who are PS2. The FDA agreed to review an NDA submission based on interim results of the PIONEER trial with the results of the STELLAR 3 and 4 trials to support the filing. Based on this feedback, if the PIONEER trial meets its pre-specified interim endpoint, we plan to submit an NDA in the first half of 2007 and would request a priority (six month) review based on the fast track designation, instead of the standard (ten month) review as previously planned. We may be unable to submit an NDA as discussed if the PIONEER trial does not meet its pre-specified interim endpoint. Based on discussions with Scientific Advice Working Party, or SAWP, of the European Medicines Agency, or EMEA, we plan to submit a marketing authorization application, or MAA, in Europe based on a non inferior survival and improved side effect profile. The discussions with the SAWP focused on using the STELLAR 4 study as primary evidence of non-inferiority and the STELLAR 3 study as supportive.

We are developing pixantrone, a novel anthracycline derivative, for the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, or NHL.

On September 15, 2006, we entered into a License and Co-Development Agreement related to XYOTAX and pixantrone. The License and Co-Development Agreement is filed as an exhibit to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 18, 2006 and is incorporated by reference herein.

**Other Information**

We were incorporated in Washington in 1991. Our principal executive offices are located at 501 Elliott Avenue West, Seattle, Washington 98119. Our telephone number is (206) 282-7100. Our website can be found at [www.cticseattle.com](http://www.cticseattle.com). We make available free of charge on our website our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and other filings pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and amendments to such filings, as soon as reasonably practicable after each is electronically filed with, or furnished to, the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC.

CTI and XYOTAX are our proprietary marks. All other product names, trademarks and trade names referred to in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

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*The following is a brief summary of some of the terms of the offering and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the more detailed information appearing elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. For a more complete description of the terms of our common stock, see the Description of Capital Stock section in the accompanying prospectus. For a more complete description of the warrants, see the Description of Warrants section in this prospectus supplement.*

Securities we are offering	23,121,394 shares of common stock, warrants to purchase up to 5,780,352 shares of common stock and up to 5,780,352 shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants
Common stock to be outstanding immediately after the offering	141,610,300 shares assuming the exercise in full of the warrants
Description of warrants	The warrants are exercisable at any time and from time to time for 90 days following the issuance of the common stock at an exercise price of \$1.73 per share.
Use of Proceeds after expenses	We intend to use the proceeds from this offering for general corporate purposes including, without limitation, research and development, preclinical and clinical trials, the preparation and filing of new drug applications and general working capital. See Use of Proceeds.
Nasdaq National Market Symbol for Our Common Stock	CTIC

**RISK FACTORS**

You should carefully consider the risks described below and other information in this prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement before deciding to invest in our common stock. Additional risks and uncertainties that we do not presently know or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business, financial condition, operating results and prospects. If any of the following risks actually occur, they could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition, operating results or prospects. In that case, the trading price of our securities could decline.

Please see the information provided under the heading Risk Factors on page 32 of our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q filed August 9, 2006, which is incorporated by reference herein.

**LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

On February 10, 2004, Micromet AG, or Micromet, a Munich, Germany-based company, filed complaints against CTI in the federal district court for the Western District in the State of Washington, asserting that CTI-Europe, formerly known as Novuspharma S.p.A., had purportedly breached a contract with Micromet for the development of MT-201, a fully human antibody targeting the EP-CAM molecule. The claims alleged that CTI-Europe failed to pay for certain milestones and development expenses owed under the contract. On February 23, 2004, we answered the complaint, denying the substance of the allegations and filed counterclaims for breach of contract and for rescission of the contract based on Micromet's misrepresentations and failures to disclose material information including preclinical trial tests which were determined to be invalid. On May 3, 2006, CTI and Micromet entered into a settlement and release regarding this lawsuit pursuant to which we paid Micromet approximately \$1.9 million in cash and the lawsuit was dismissed with prejudice.

Beginning in March 2005, a number of purported shareholder class actions, alleging violations of federal securities laws, were filed against CTI, James Bianco and Max Link. These actions were consolidated in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. On November 7, 2005, the plaintiffs filed a





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Consolidated and Amended Class Action Complaint against CTI, James Bianco and Jack Singer. The Consolidated and Amended Complaint asserts claims arising under Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 thereunder on behalf of a class of purchasers of common stock during the period from November 14, 2003 to March 7, 2005, or the Class Period. Plaintiffs alleged that the defendants violated federal securities laws by, among other things, making false statements of material facts and/or omitting to state material facts to make the statements not misleading in connection with the results of the Company's STELLAR clinical trials for its drug XYOTAX. On January 6, 2006, we filed a motion to dismiss this class action complaint. On May 4, 2006 the Court granted our motion to dismiss this lawsuit with leave to the plaintiffs to amend. On June 8, 2006 the Court entered a dismissal of this lawsuit with prejudice.

On May 9, 2005, Terence Fernandes, a shareholder of CTI, filed a complaint in the Superior Court of the State of Washington, King County on behalf of CTI against members of CTI's board of directors. The shareholder derivative action alleges breaches of fiduciary duties, abuse of control, gross mismanagement, waste of corporate assets and unjust enrichment since June 7, 2004. On December 7, 2005, plaintiff filed an amended complaint and defendants filed a motion to dismiss on February 6, 2006, to which plaintiffs responded on March 10, 2006. Defendants filed a reply brief on April 10, 2006. On June 22, 2006 the Court granted our motion to dismiss this lawsuit with leave to the plaintiffs to amend. The period of time for the plaintiffs to amend the complaint has tolled. On July 31, 2006 defendants filed a motion to dismiss this lawsuit with prejudice for the failure of the plaintiffs to amend the complaint. On August 23, 2006, the Court entered a dismissal of this lawsuit with prejudice.

The United States Attorney's Office, or USAO, for the Western District of Washington is conducting an investigation into certain of CTI's business practices relating to TRISENOX. USAO's investigation relates to CTI's promotional practices relating to TRISENOX; its reporting of revenue relating to TRISENOX sales; and statements made CTI representatives, and its expert third party reimbursement consultant, relating to the eligibility of TRISENOX for Medicare reimbursement when the drug was used to treat certain off-label indications. USAO has issued subpoenas to third parties relating to its investigation. CTI is fully cooperating with USAO (through the provision of documents and periodic meetings) and has not received a subpoena relating to the matter. Management cannot predict whether USAO will bring formal criminal enforcement proceedings (and USAO has not indicated that it will). Claims associated with the above-referenced as well as related conduct have been filed against CTI under seal on behalf of the government by a private party in a qui tam action. Based on information currently available to CTI, we believe that the USAO may recommend to the Department of Justice that the government intervene in the qui tam action, as is its right, and assume the conduct of this lawsuit. We believe that regardless of whether the government or the private party pursues this lawsuit that one of the primary claims that might be pursued would be that CTI violated the Federal False Claims Act by receiving reimbursement from Medicare for improper off-label use of Trisenox or otherwise ineligible sales of TRISENOX over the period ranging from October 2000 until TRISENOX disposition to Cephalon in July of 2005. During this period CTI utilized a third party reimbursement expert. CTI believes it has meritorious defenses to these claims. It is unclear to CTI under this theory what sales or portions thereof would be in question. Accordingly, CTI cannot provide an estimate of a possible loss or range of loss in connection with this investigation or lawsuit. Under the False Claims Act, damages can be trebled and separate fines imposed for each violation, if the government or the private party plaintiff were to prevail in this lawsuit it is likely that such an adverse judgment would have a material adverse effect on our financial position, liquidity and results of operations.

In addition to the litigation discussed above, we are from time to time, subject to legal proceedings and claims arising in the ordinary course of business, some of which may be covered in whole or in part by insurance.

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**DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS**

*The material terms and provisions of the warrants being offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are summarized below. This summary is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, the form of warrant filed as part of Exhibit 10.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed by us on September 20, 2006 in connection with this offering.*

The warrants will be exercisable at any time and from time to time for ninety (90) days following the issuance of the shares of common stock being offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, which is expected to occur on or about September 21, 2006. The warrants will be exercisable, at the option of each holder, upon the surrender of the warrants to us and the payment in cash of the exercise price of the shares being acquired upon exercise of the warrants.

The exercise price per share of common stock purchasable upon exercise of the warrants is \$1.73 per share of common stock being purchased. The exercise price is subject to appropriate adjustment in the event of stock dividends, stock splits, reorganizations or similar events affecting our common stock. The holders of the warrants are entitled to 20 days notice before the record date for certain distributions to holders of our common stock. If certain fundamental transactions occur, such as a merger, consolidation sale of substantially all of our assets, tender offer or exchange offer with respect to our common stock or reclassification of our common stock, the holders of the warrants will be entitled to receive thereafter in lieu of our common stock, the consideration (if different from common stock), that the holders of our common stock received due to such fundamental transaction.

The warrants may not be transferred except to affiliates of a holder.

**CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS**

All purchasers of the warrants are advised to consult their own tax advisors regarding the federal, state, local and foreign tax consequences of the purchase, ownership, exercise and disposition of the warrants in their particular situations.

**PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

We are offering through placement agents 23,121,394 shares of our common stock at a purchase price of \$1.73 per share to investors. In addition, each investor in the offering will receive warrants to purchase up to a number of shares equal to 25% of the shares being purchased in the offering by such investor (5,780,352 shares of common stock in the aggregate) for an exercise price of \$1.73 per share. In connection with this offering, we will pay fees to Rodman & Renshaw, LLC, who acted as our lead placement agent and sole book runner ( Rodman & Renshaw, LLC ), and Punk, Ziegel and Company, who acted as our co-placement agent ( Punk, Ziegel and Company and, together with Rodman & Renshaw, LLC, the Placement Agents ). The Placement Agents will be working solely on a best efforts basis and are not purchasing or selling any shares by this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, nor are they required to arrange for the purchase and sale of any specific number or dollar amount of shares. Therefore, we may not sell the entire amount of shares of our common stock offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement. However, we are not required to close the sale if the aggregate size of the offering is less than 11,600,000 shares.

The securities purchase agreement provides that the obligations of the investors in the offering are subject to certain conditions precedent, including the absence of any material adverse change in our business and the receipt of certain opinions from our counsel.

Confirmations and this prospectus supplement will be delivered, or otherwise made available, to all investors who agree to purchase shares of the common stock, informing investors of the closing date as to such shares. We currently anticipate that closing of the sale of 23,121,394 shares of common stock and warrants to purchase up to 5,780,352 shares of common stock will take place on or about September 21, 2006. Investors will also be informed of the date and manner in which they must transmit the purchase price for their shares.

On the scheduled closing date, the following will occur:

we will receive funds in the amount of the aggregate purchase price of the 23,121,394 shares of common stock and warrants to purchase up to 5,780,352 shares of common stock;

we will issue the 23,121,394 shares of common stock and warrants to purchase up to 5,780,352 shares of common stock; and

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we will pay the Placement Agents' fee in accordance with the terms of our agreement with the Placement Agents. On September 15, 2006, we entered into a letter agreement with the Placement Agents to jointly serve as exclusive placement agents for purchasers of our securities pursuant to our existing shelf registration statement, file no. 333-131533, for a period of ninety (90) days. Pursuant to the agreement, we will pay the Placement Agents at closing a cash fee equal to 5% of all cash proceeds received by us from investors it introduces to us. We have also agreed to pay to reimburse the Placement Agents for up to \$20,000 of expenses incurred in connection with the offering. The estimated offering expenses payable by us, excluding the placement agent's fees, are \$500,000, which include legal, accounting and printing costs and various other fees associated with registering and listing the shares of common stock.

We have agreed to indemnify the Placement Agents against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. We may also be required to contribute to payments the Placement Agents may be required to make in respect of such liabilities.

The agreement with the Placement Agents and the form of stock purchase agreement with the investors are included as exhibits to our Current Report on Form 8-K that will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with the completion of this offering.

Either or both of Rodman & Renshaw, LLC or Punk, Ziegel and Company may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of Section 2(a)(11) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and any commissions received by them and any profit realized on the resale of the securities sold by them while acting as principal might be deemed to be underwriting discounts or commissions under the Securities Act. As underwriters, the Placement Agents would be required to comply with the requirements of the Securities Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act, including, without limitation, Rule 415(a)(4) under the Securities Act and Rule 10b-5 and Regulation M under the Exchange Act. These rules and regulations may limit the timing of purchases and sales of shares of common stock and warrants by the Placement Agents. Under these rules and regulations, the Placement Agents:

may not engage in any stabilization activity in connection with our securities; and

may not bid for or purchase any of our securities or attempt to induce any person to purchase any of our securities, other than as permitted under the Exchange Act, until it has completed its participation in the distribution.

### **LEGAL MATTERS**

The validity of the issuance of the Cell Therapeutics, Inc. securities offered by this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus will be passed upon for Cell Therapeutics, Inc. by O Melveny & Myers LLP, San Francisco, California. Feldman Weinstein & Smith LLP in New York, New York is acting as counsel for the placement agent.

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**PROSPECTUS**

**\$150,000,000**

**Common Stock**

**Preferred Stock**

**Debt Securities**

**Warrants**

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From time to time, we may sell any of the securities listed above.

We will provide the specific terms of these securities in one or more supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus, the information incorporated by reference and any prospectus supplement carefully before you invest.

Our common stock is quoted on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol CTIC.

The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information, where applicable, as to any other listing on the Nasdaq National Market or any securities exchange or market of the securities covered by the prospectus supplement.

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**Investing in our securities involves significant risks, which we describe in our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005 and in other documents that we subsequently file with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and which we will describe in supplements to this prospectus.**

**This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.**

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We may sell the securities to or through underwriters or dealers, directly to purchasers or through agents designated from time to time. For additional information on the methods of sale, you should refer to the section entitled "Plan of Distribution" in this prospectus. If any underwriters are involved in the sale of any securities with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered, the names of such underwriters and any applicable discounts or commissions and over-allotment options will be set forth in a prospectus supplement. The price to the public of such securities and the net proceeds we expect to receive from such sale will also be set forth in a prospectus supplement.

**Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.**

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The date of this prospectus is April 19, 2006

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No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. You must not rely on any unauthorized information or representations. This prospectus is an offer to sell only the securities offered hereby, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus or any applicable prospectus supplement is current only as of its date, and the information contained in any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or any sale of a security.

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**ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS**

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under the shelf registration process, we may sell common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or warrants in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$150,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell any securities under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain more specific information about the terms of those securities. We may also add, update or change in the prospectus supplement any of the information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus, together with the applicable prospectus supplements and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus, includes all material information relating to this offering. Please carefully read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information described below under Where You Can Find More Information before buying securities in this offering.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or a prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, as well as information we have previously filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference, is accurate as of the date on the front of those documents only. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospectus may have changed since those dates. **This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of our securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.**

This prospectus contains and incorporates by reference market data, industry statistics and other data that have been obtained from, or compiled from, information made available by third parties. We have not independently verified their data.



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### **SUMMARY**

*The following is a summary of this prospectus. The following summary does not contain all the information that you should consider before investing in the notes. You should read this entire prospectus carefully, including the documents that we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Unless otherwise indicated, CTI, Company, we, us, our and similar terms refer to Cell Therapeutics, Inc. and its subsidiaries.*

### **Our Company**

We develop, acquire and commercialize novel treatments for cancer. Our goal is to build a leading biopharmaceutical company with a diversified portfolio of proprietary oncology drugs. Our research, development, acquisition and in-licensing activities concentrate on identifying and developing new, less toxic and more effective ways to treat cancer. We are developing XYOTAX, paclitaxel poliglumex, for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer, or NSCLC, and ovarian cancer. Our phase III clinical studies for XYOTAX did not meet our primary endpoint of superior overall survival. However, in a pooled analysis of our STELLAR 3 and 4 pivotal trials, women receiving XYOTAX for first-line treatment of NSCLC had statistically significant improvement in median, 1 year and overall survival compared to women receiving standard first-line chemotherapy. In addition, a phase II clinical trial that we reported in September 2005 demonstrated a survival advantage for women receiving XYOTAX as first-line therapy for NSCLC when compared to men. We, therefore, plan to submit a new drug application, or NDA, with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA, for XYOTAX as first-line monotherapy for women with advanced NSCLC who have poor performance status (PS2) based on data from the pooled analysis of our STELLAR 3 and 4 first-line trials. To support this indication, we also have initiated an additional study for XYOTAX as first-line monotherapy in PS2 women with NSCLC with a target of having interim results available at the time of FDA review of that NDA, as an alternative to waiting for the completion of the study. In Europe, we plan to submit a marketing authorization application, or MAA, based on non inferior survival and improved side effect profile demonstrated in our first-line pivotal trials. We will need additional positive input from the Scientific Advisory Working Group of the European Medicines Agency, or EMEA, prior to submitting an MAA on these bases. We are developing pixantrone, a novel anthracycline derivative, for the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, or NHL. We are targeting an interim analysis from our ongoing phase III study late in the second quarter of 2006. We also are developing CT-2106, polyglutamate camptothecin, which is in a phase I/II trial for the treatment of colorectal cancer and a phase II trial in ovarian cancer. In the first half of 2005, we commenced a cost savings initiative, including a reduction of workforce, in an effort to conserve capital.

We were incorporated in Washington in 1991. Our principal office is located at 501 Elliott Avenue West, Suite 400, Seattle, WA 98119. Our telephone number is (206) 282-7100. Our world wide web address is <http://www.cticseattle.com>. Information on our website does not constitute part of this prospectus. CTI and XYOTAX (formerly referred to as PG-TXL) are our proprietary marks. All other product names, trademarks and trade names referred to in this prospectus are the property of their respective owners.

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**The Securities We May Offer**

We may offer shares of our common stock, preferred stock and various series of debt securities and warrants to purchase such securities with a total value of up to \$150 million from time to time under this prospectus at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions at the time of offering. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we offer a type or series of securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will describe the specific amounts, prices and other important terms of the securities, including, to the extent applicable:

designation or classification;

aggregate principal amount or aggregate offering price;

maturity;

original issue discount, if any;

rates and times of payment of interest, dividends or other payments, if any;

redemption, conversion, exchange, settlement or sinking fund terms, if any;

conversion, exchange or settlement prices or rates, if any, and, if applicable, any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the conversion, exchange or settlement prices or rates and in the securities or other property receivable upon conversion, exchange or settlement;

ranking;

restrictive covenants, if any;

voting or other rights, if any; and

important federal income tax considerations.

The prospectus supplement also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in documents we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

**This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.**

We may sell the securities directly to or through underwriters, dealers or agents. We, and our underwriters or agents, reserve the right to accept or reject all or part of any proposed purchase of securities. If we do offer securities through underwriters or agents, we will include in the applicable prospectus supplement:

the names of those underwriters or agents;

applicable fees, discounts and commissions to be paid to them;

details regarding over-allotment options, if any; and

the net proceeds to us.

*Common Stock.* We may issue shares of our common stock from time to time. Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held on all other matters to be voted upon by the shareholders and there are no cumulative voting rights. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding preferred stock, holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably the dividends, if any, that are declared from time to time by the board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose. In the event of a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the company, the holders of common stock are entitled to share in our assets remaining after the payment of liabilities and the satisfaction of any liquidation preference granted to the holders of any outstanding shares of preferred stock. Holders of common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. The rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate in the future.

*Preferred Stock.* We may issue shares of our preferred stock from time to time. The board of directors has the authority, without action by the shareholders, to designate and issue up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock in one or more series and to designate the rights, preferences and privileges of each series, which may be greater than the rights of the common stock. We have designated 100,000 shares of our preferred stock as Series C preferred stock in November 1996 in connection with the adoption of a shareholder rights plan as described below under Description of Capital Stock Shareholder Rights Plan .

We will fix the rights, preferences and privileges of the preferred stock of each series that we sell under this prospectus and applicable prospectus supplements in the certificate of designation relating to that series. We will incorporate by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part the form of any certificate of designation that describes the

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terms of the series of preferred stock that we are offering before the issuance of the related series of preferred stock. We urge you to read the prospectus supplements related to the series of preferred stock being offered, as well as the complete certificate of designation that contains the terms of the applicable series of preferred stock.

*Debt Securities.* We may issue debt securities from time to time, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. The senior debt securities will rank equally with any other unsubordinated debt that we may have and may be secured or unsecured. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner described in the instrument governing the debt, to all or some portion of our indebtedness. Any convertible debt securities that we issue will be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock or other securities of ours. Conversion may be mandatory or at your option and would be at prescribed conversion rates.

The debt securities will be issued under one or more documents called indentures, which are contracts between us and a trustee for the holders of the debt securities. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the debt securities. We urge you, however, to read the prospectus supplements related to the series of debt securities being offered, as well as the complete indentures that contain the terms of the debt securities. Indentures have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities containing the terms of debt securities being offered will be incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part from reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

*Warrants.* We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series, from time to time. We may issue warrants independently or together with common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities, and the warrants may be attached to or separate from those securities.

The warrants will be evidenced by a warrant certificate issued under one or more warrant agreements, which are contracts between us and an agent for the holders of the warrants. In this prospectus, we have summarized certain general features of the warrants. We urge you, however, to read the prospectus supplements related to the series of warrants being offered, as well as the complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates that contain the terms of the warrants. Forms of warrant agreements and warrants certificates relating to warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and debt securities have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and complete warrant agreements and warrant certificates containing the terms of warrants being offered will be incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part from reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**Financial Ratios**

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated is as follows:

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1)					

(1) For the purposes of computing ratio of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of income (loss) before provision for income taxes plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest charges and that portion of rental payments under operating leases we believe to be representative of interest. Earnings for the years ended December 31, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, were insufficient to cover fixed charges by \$80,273, \$49,903, \$130,031, \$252,298 and \$102,505 (in thousands) respectively.

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**RISK FACTORS**

Prior to making a decision about investing in our securities, you should carefully consider the specific risks discussed under **Risk Factors** in the applicable prospectus supplement and in our subsequent annual reports on Form 10-K and quarterly reports on 10-Q incorporated by reference into this prospectus, together with all of the other information appearing in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement, in light of your particular investment objectives and financial circumstances.

**SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

In addition to the other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, you should carefully consider the risk factors contained in and incorporated by reference into this prospectus when evaluating an investment in our common stock. This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus include **forward-looking statements** within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended ( **Securities Act** ), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ( **Exchange Act** ). All statements other than statements of historical fact are **forward-looking statements** for purposes of these provisions, including:

any projections of earnings, revenues or other financial items;

any statements of the plans and objectives of management for future operations;

any statements concerning proposed new products or services;

any statements regarding future operations, plans, regulatory filings or approvals;

any statements on plans regarding proposed or potential clinical trials or new drug filing strategies;

any statements concerning proposed new products or services, any statements regarding pending or future mergers or acquisitions; and

any statements regarding future economic conditions or performance, and any statement of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing. In some cases, forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of terminology such as **may**, **will**, **expects**, **plans**, **anticipates**, **estimates**, **potential**, or **continue** or the negative thereof or other comparable terminology. There can be no assurance that such expectations or any of the forward-looking statements will prove to be correct, and actual results could differ materially from these projected or assumed in the forward-looking statements. Our future financial condition and results of operations, as well as any forward-looking statements, are subject to inherent risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, the risk factors set forth in this prospectus. All forward-looking statements and reasons why results may differ included in this prospectus are made as of the date hereof, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statement or reason why actual results might differ.

**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will retain broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from the sale of our securities offered hereby. Except as described in any prospectus supplement, we currently anticipate using the net proceeds from the sale of our securities hereby primarily for clinical development of drug candidates, as well as commercialization activities and general corporate purposes, including working capital and research expenses. In addition, we may use some of the net proceeds to hire additional personnel. The amounts and timing of the expenditures may vary significantly depending on numerous factors, such as the progress of our research and development efforts, technological advances and the competitive environment for our products. We also might use a portion of the net proceeds to acquire or invest in complementary businesses, products and technologies.

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Pending the use of the net proceeds, we intend to invest the net proceeds in short-term, interest-bearing, investment-grade securities.

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### **DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK**

This summary does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, the provisions of our restated articles of incorporation, as amended, and all applicable provisions of Washington law.

#### **General**

We are authorized to issue 200,000,000 shares of common stock, no par value, and 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, no par value. As of the close of business on December 31, 2005, there were 73,421,721 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

#### **Common Stock**

Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held on all matters to be voted upon by the shareholders and there are no cumulative voting rights. Subject to preferences that may be applicable to any outstanding preferred stock, holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably the dividends, if any, that are declared from time to time by the board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose. In the event of a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the company, the holders of common stock are entitled to share in our assets remaining after the payment of liabilities and the satisfaction of any liquidation preference granted to the holders of any outstanding shares of preferred stock. Holders of common stock have no preemptive or conversion rights or other subscription rights. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. All outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. The rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock that we may designate in the future.

#### **Preferred Stock**

The board of directors has the authority, without action by the shareholders, to designate and issue preferred stock in one or more series and to designate the rights, preferences and privileges of each series, which may be greater than the rights of the common stock. It is not possible to state the actual effect of the issuance of any shares of preferred stock upon the rights of holders of the common stock until the board of directors determines the specific rights of the holders of this preferred stock. However, the effects might include, among other things:

restricting dividends on the common stock;

diluting the voting power of the common stock;

impairing the liquidation rights of the common stock; or

delaying or preventing a change in control of the company without further action by the shareholders.

We designated 100,000 shares of our preferred stock as Series C preferred stock in November 1996 in connection with the adoption of a shareholder rights plan as described below.

No shares of preferred stock are outstanding, and we have no present plans to issue any shares of preferred stock.

#### **Anti-takeover Effects of Provisions of Washington Law and our Charter and Bylaws**

Washington law contains certain provisions that may have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of the company. Chapter 23B.17 of the Washington Business Corporation Act (the WBCA) prohibits, subject to certain exceptions, a merger, sale of assets or liquidation of the company involving an interested shareholder (defined as a person or group of affiliated persons who own beneficially 20% or more of the company's voting securities) unless the transaction is determined to be at a fair price or otherwise approved by a majority of the company's disinterested directors or is approved by holders of two-thirds of the company's outstanding voting securities, other than those held by

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the interested shareholder. A Washington corporation may, in its articles of incorporation, exempt itself from coverage of this provision, but the company has not done so. In addition, Chapter 23B.19 of the WBCA prohibits the company, with certain exceptions, from engaging in certain significant business transactions with an acquiring person (defined as a person or group of persons who acquire 10% or more of the company's voting securities without the prior approval of the company's board of directors) for a period of five years following the acquiring person's share acquisition date. The prohibited transactions include, among others, a merger or consolidation with, disposition of assets to, or issuance or redemption of stock to or from, the acquiring person, or otherwise allowing the acquiring person to receive any disproportionate benefit as a shareholder. The company may not exempt itself from coverage of this statute. These statutory provisions may have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of the company.

Our board of directors is divided into three approximately equal classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms. In addition, our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation provide that directors may be removed from office only at a meeting of shareholders called expressly for that purpose and only for cause. Our Amended and Restated Articles of



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Incorporation limit cause to willful misfeasance having a material adverse effect on the company or conviction of a felony, provided that any action by a director shall not constitute cause if, in good faith, the director believed the action to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the company or if the director is entitled to be indemnified with respect to such action under applicable law, our Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation or Amended and Restated Bylaws, or a contract with the company. Further, our Amended and Restated Bylaws require a shareholder to provide notice to the company of such shareholder's intent to nominate a person or persons for election as directors not later than 90 days prior to the first anniversary of the previous year's annual meeting of shareholders or, in the case of an election to be held at a special meeting of shareholders for the election of directors, the close of business on the tenth day following the date on which notice of such meeting is first given to shareholders. A shareholder must also provide us with notice of such shareholder's intent to make any proposal at an annual meeting of shareholders not later than 90 days prior to the first anniversary of the previous year's annual meeting of shareholders. These provisions may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying change in control or management of our company.

## **Shareholder Rights Plan**

On November 11, 1996, our board of directors adopted a shareholder rights plan and declared a distribution of one preferred stock purchase right (a right) for each outstanding share of common stock to shareholders of record as of the close of business November 21, 1996 and for each share of common stock issued thereafter pursuant to a rights agreement entered into on November 11, 1996 and amended November 20, 2002, between the company and Computershare Investor Services, LLC as Rights Agent (the rights agreement). In connection with the adoption of the rights agreement, we reserved for issuance 100,000 shares of series C preferred stock. The series C preferred stock will only be issued in the event rights issued pursuant to the rights agreement are exercised.

## **Transfer Agent and Registrar**

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Computershare Investor Services, LLC.

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**DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES**

The following description, together with the additional information we include in any applicable prospectus supplements, summarizes the material terms and provisions of the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus. While the terms we have summarized below will generally apply to any future debt securities we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms of any debt securities we offer under a prospectus supplement may differ from the terms we describe below.

We will issue the senior notes under the senior indenture which we will enter into with one or more trustees. We will issue the subordinated notes under the subordinated indenture which we will enter into with one or more trustees. We have filed forms of these documents as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We use the term *indentures* to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture.

The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act. We use the term *debenture trustee* to refer to either the senior trustee or the subordinated trustee, as applicable.

The following summaries of material provisions of the senior notes, the subordinated notes and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplements related to the debt securities that we sell under this prospectus, as well as the complete indentures that contain the terms of the debt securities. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical.

**General**

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms relating to a series of debt securities, including:

the title;

the principal amount being offered, and, if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;

any limit on the amount that may be issued;

whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form and, if so, the terms and who the depository will be;

the maturity date;

the principal amount due at maturity, and whether the debt securities will be issued with any original issue discount;

whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a United States person for tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;

the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate, the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable