



diabetic murine models.

What's really promising is that the cells produced insulin only in response to high glucose levels in the body. This is significant, because insulin is not a hormone that needs to be secreted constantly.

In fact, taking insulin at the wrong time, or having too much of it, is deadly. Normally, the body produces insulin when glucose levels are high (for example, after eating) and the body responds by taking up the sugar and storing it. If glucose levels are low, as a result of not having eaten for awhile, a dose of insulin will knock glucose down even further. For this technique to work, the reprogrammed cells need to respond appropriately to glucose. And according to these researchers, it did.

The technique sounds a bit far-fetched, but it's closer than you may think to being a reality. The researchers already have a supply of cells that is compatible in humans, and they want to establish cell banks to soon begin implanting them in humans.

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