

Sydney cosmetic physician **Dr Sharron Phillipson** explains to Christine Doggett why she is enthusiastic about the use of Isolagen for facial rejuvenation.

Isolagen treatment involves taking the patient's own skin and tissue cells, building them up in a laboratory and then injecting them back into the patient's body. Isolagen has been available in America and the United Kingdom for about eight years, and has been available in Australia since September 2003.

Sydney cosmetic physician Dr Phillipson explains, "A tiny section of skin – a 3mm biopsy from behind the ear – is sent to the Isolagen cell

reproduction facility. Over a four to six week period, millions of fibroblast cells are grown from the sample. They are then ready to be injected intra-dermally into lines, such as the nasolabial folds, wrinkles or depressions in the skin."

Fibroblast cells are responsible for producing collagen in the skin, and stimulate long-term rejuvenation of the treated area, remaining effective for many years. Thus the patient's own skin cells can be used to correct dermal depressions, lines and wrinkles, and acne scars or those caused by trauma.

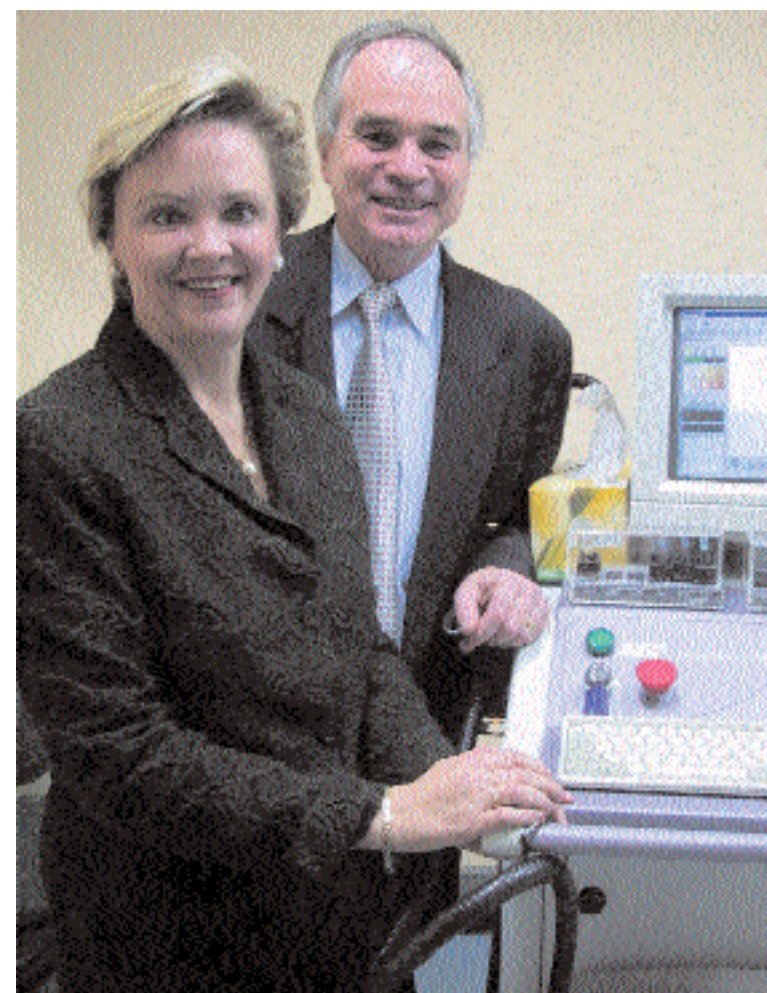
"By injecting the fibroblasts into any or all of these areas, a youthful appearance is restored," Dr Phillipson says. "There is no pre-testing required, because there is no chance of rejection or allergy as the tissues are the patient's own. It is a simple procedure with no complications and very little bruising, and what is more, the effect continues to improve over time." **acsm**



BEFORE

AFTER treatment with Isolagen

# home grown



Dr Sharron Phillipson and Dr Les Brown

## case study

Andrea is a single mother who has recently reached her 40s. She works in the beauty industry and wanted to retain a youthful, fresh appearance. She has used Botox to soften lines in her forehead and Aquamid to plump up her lips. But she was also looking for something to improve her skin's appearance, something that would last, was uncomplicated, would eradicate lines and give the youthful, fresh-faced glow she had some years before. After researching the Isolagen process, she decided to try it.

"I liked the fact that I would be using my own skin cells, so there was no risk of an allergic reaction, or in fact, any tell-tale signs that I had had any treatment at all," Andrea explains. "The results are apparently long-lasting and my skin should continue to benefit and improve into the future, as the fibroblasts stimulate collagen production.

"The skin biopsy was done in October and in December I had three consecutive injections, one each week. I was offered ice or a local anaesthetic, and there was no pain and no discomfort at all. There was minimal swelling, and just a couple of needle marks, which had disappeared the next day. The fibroblasts were injected into my nasolabial folds, and I love the results! "There was an immediate improvement, but the process continued and after eight weeks the difference is very noticeable to me. The skin has plumped out beautifully. My facial skin is firm and plump, and my face looks generally fuller. I think I look so much better and, consequently, I feel great about the way I look."

Photo Pierre Bourrier