



Welcome to the ICSCN update for January 2011.

This newsletter is a source of information and an opportunity to promote network activities for all ICSCN members and their associated organisations, scientists and students. All members are encouraged to distribute this newsletter to their wider groups, place a link on their websites and [contribute news](#) and updates for future newsletters and the website.

ICSCN Members

[Australian Stem Cell Centre](#)

[Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research](#)

[California Institute for Regenerative Medicine](#)

[East of England Stem Cell Network](#)

[International Society for Stem Cell Research](#)

[International Stem Cell Forum](#)

[Irish Stem Cell Foundation](#)

[Israel Stem Cell Society](#)

[New South Wales Stem Cell Network](#)

[New York Stem Cell Foundation](#)

[North East England Stem Cell Institute](#)

[Regenerative Medicine Initiative Germany - RMIG](#)

[RIKEN Centre for Developmental Biology](#)

[Scottish Stem Cell Network](#)

[Spanish Stem Cell Bank /Centre de Medicina Regenerativa de Barcelona](#)

[Stem Cell Network Asia Pacific](#)

[Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia](#)

[Stem Cell Network, Canada](#)

[Switzerland, Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine](#)

[UK National Stem Cell Network](#)

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ICSCN at ISSCR 2011, Toronto

2011 ICSCN Meeting

For the second time the ISSCR meeting visits Toronto, Canada. As with last year, the ICSCN will hold a working group meeting of limited numbers for planning purposes and a wider ICSCN networking meeting with each group invited to give a short five minute talk on their latest developments and achievements. Dates and times are currently being finalised and will be announced shortly.

2011 Post-Doc Symposium

Following the success of the last two years, the ICSCN is delighted to announce that it will host its 3rd ICSCN Symposia for Outstanding Young Researchers in Toronto on June 14th and the morning of June 15th, immediately prior to ISSCR. The symposium will take the format of a series of 30 minute seminars given by the each of the participants, together with breaks to provide opportunities for discussion and networking.

Each member network of the ICSCN may choose a maximum of three post-doctoral fellows to come to Toronto and present their work to their international peers. A maximum of 20 participants can be accommodated and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

In addition, this year the Canadian Stem Cell Network is offering **travel scholarships of CDN\$1,000** to those PDFs submitted and accepted to present at the symposium by **Feb 28, 2011**. These awards can be used to subsidise **travel within Canada** either immediately before or after ISSCR, to visit a Canadian stem cell laboratory for the purpose of establishing new collaborations. Further details of this opportunity will be provided directly to the successful applicants.

Click [here](#) for further information and application details.



Highlights & Minutes from 2010 Meeting in San Francisco

The ICSCN met in June 2010 alongside the annual ISSCR meeting in San Francisco. As with previous years the meeting was held in two halves. A smaller planning meeting followed by the main meeting. The minutes and outcomes of both meetings can be found [here](#).

ICSCN Member Statements and Documents on Unproven Therapies

One of the key items discussed at the ICSCN meeting last year was the ongoing issue of *stem cell tourism* and the response strategies from each network. It was decided that in order to facilitate a coordinated approach, ICSCN members would share their materials and strategies in this area. This process is to be coordinated by Ira Herrmann of the SCN North Rhine Westphalia and as such it would be much appreciated if each network would provide any information materials or appropriate documentation by email to herrmann@stemcells.nrw.de by **4 February 2011**. A summary of the materials and their access detail will then be made available to all ICSCN members.

ICSCN Workshop on Stem Cells for ALS/MND

24 -25 January 2011 at the Hudson Hotel, New York, USA

The ICSCN has organised its first stem cells and disease workshop to be held in New York on 24 and 25 January 2011. The workshop focuses on *Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis* (abbreviated *ALS*, also referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease and known as Motor Neuron Disease or MND in the UK and Australia) as there is currently a lack of critical mass in this particular area. The invite only workshop is to feature participants from all over the world from research, patient groups and industry. The anticipated outcomes from the workshop include:

- A review article/consensus statement (in both lay form and for publication in a scientific journal) outlining the nature of ALS/MND and current treatment approaches, the state of stem cell research with respect to the diseases, relevant clinical models, and future prospects for the development of a stem cell based therapy (including any unique manufacturing/commercial and regulatory impediments).
- The workshop itself should allow researchers to identify potential new international collaborators, and position them well for future applications to the participating charities and other funding sources such as NIH.

A full report on the outcomes of the workshop will be provided in future newsletters.

Welcome New Member

The ICSCN welcomes the addition of Switzerland's National Research Programme "Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine" (NRP 63) as the group representing Swiss stem cell science. NPR 63 aims to promote basic research in Switzerland and recruit promising young scientists to this field. The NRP 63 comprises a total of 12 projects (for details see www.nrp63.ch/projects). These cover a broad range of topics in the field of stem cell biology. Research using adult human stem cells as well as embryonic and adult stem cells from animals (fruit flies, mice, zebra fish) is performed. Participating research groups are from various academic institutions in Basel (four projects), Bern (one), Geneva (one), Lausanne (two) and Zurich (four). The NRP 63 has a financial network of CHF 10 million at its disposal. The research projects began on 1 March 2010 and will extend into 2015.

In addition the group aims to facilitate knowledge transfer from the scientific community to public/doctors/interested organisations etc. and promote research matching with other groups working in



the same research field, organise annual meetings of all researchers involved in NRP 63 and improve visibility of Swiss stem cell research.

Read more at www.nrp63.ch

Member News

Please send news items to the ICSCN [Secretariat](#) for future publication.

Stem Cell Network, Canada

Understanding Stem Cell Controversies - An intensive course on regulatory and socio-ethical issues

This course has been designed to provide participants with a broad knowledge of current stem cell research endeavours and an understanding of the ethical, legal and social issues associated with stem cells research and their therapeutic applications. Topics covered will include stem cell science 101, stem cell ethics, stem cell policy, stem cells & the patient community, Stem cells & the media, and commercialization of stem cell research. The course is being held in Calgary from March 2-4, 2011 with full details available [here](#).

Germany

Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia 6th International Meeting, 5-6 April 2011, Essen

The Stem Cell Network is pleased to announce its already 6th International Meeting to take place on April 5-6, 2011. Besides well-established topics as Differentiation and Disease Models new issues as Non-human Primate Pluripotent Stem Cells and Hypoxia & Metabolism will be part of the program.

Congress venue is the Congress Center West in Essen – current Culture Capital of Europe. Full details at <http://www.congress.stemcells.nrw.de/en.html>

New York Stem Cell Foundation

Parkinson's Disease: How Stem Cell Research Will Make a Difference - Public Outreach Event

The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) will hold its sixth annual spring public outreach event in New York on Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 6:30pm bringing together leading stem cell scientists with patient advocates to describe current efforts to apply stem cell research to finding new treatments and cures for Parkinson's disease. Full details [here](#).

Australia

Australian Stem Cell Centre Publishes Stem Cell Teachers Kit

Launched in August 2011, the Stem Cell Teachers' Kit is designed to assist teachers in the integration of stem cell science into the secondary school curriculum. Mainly aimed at years 10-12, the Kit will help teachers in the key learning areas of Science, Biology, English, Religious Education and Philosophy. Key questions are addressed, such as *What are stem cells? What are the different types of stem cells?* and *What are the ethical issues?* in an interactive format that caters for different abilities and age groups. The Kit is free to download from the ASCC's [website](#).

Future Funding for Australian Stem Cell Research

A consortium of Australia's leading universities and research organisations headed by the University of Melbourne and led by Professor Martin Pera, have been announced as recipients of funding totalling \$21 million from the Australian Research Council's Special Research Initiative in Stem Cell Science. The group, currently known as *Stem Cells Australia* will commence operations on 1 July 2011 following the completion of the Australian Stem Cell Centre's funding on 30 June 2011. Read more on the Australian Stem Cell Centre's website [here](#).

California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

CIRM – MRC, Human Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer Workshop Report

In June 2010, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the Medical Research Council of the United Kingdom called a joint meeting to examine the topic of hSCNT and its role in stem cell research. This workshop brought together many of the pre-eminent researchers in the field of SCNT to discuss



whether SCNT is achievable in humans, what challenges exist, and whether hSCNT offers any scientific or medical advantages over other methods of cellular reprogramming. The full report can be read here on the [CIRM](#) website.

CIRM Enters Agreement with Biotime Inc to make GMP hESC Lines

Under the agreement, BioTime will initially provide five research grade cell lines, but within one year, BioTime will make available GMP compliant cell lines. The [five lines](#) were originally derived in 2007 by the Singapore based ES Cell International in conjunction with Sydney IVF. ES Cell International was acquired by the US based BioTime in April 2010. The parties anticipate that the use of the GMP grade cell lines will streamline the translation of basic science to human therapies. More details available on the [CIRM website](#) and the BioTime [website](#).

Israeli Stem Cell Society

Israeli Stem Cell Society 4th Annual Meeting, May 23-24, 2011

Stem Cells in Growth, Reprogramming, Tumorigenesis and Regeneration. Speakers include: Melissa Little, Australia, Miodrag Stojkovic, Spain and Kevin Eggan and Konrad Hochedlinger, USA. Full program and registration details available [here](#).

United Kingdom

UKNSCN Annual Science Meeting 2011

The UKNSCN is delighted to announce that the fourth annual stem cell science conference in 2011 will be held at the University of York, Wednesday 30 March to Friday 1 April 2011. The UKNSCN conference will continue to showcase the latest and best developments in UK stem cell and regenerative medicine research, with a number of world-class speakers from overseas. The provisional 2011 programme is now available [here](#).

Stem Cell Patent Digests

The UKNSCN provides the community with regular (two-monthly) digests of both published and granted patents in the stem cell field. The UKNSCN produces these digests in partnership with the UK's Intellectual Property Office (IPO), who include their search strategy as an annex to each digest. The [Patent Digests](#) are freely available for download.

Scottish Stem Cell Network News

The latest edition of the SSCN Newsletter is now available for download [here](#) and features an overview of how the UK Governments cuts to the regulators will impact on stem cell science.

ISSCR Annual Meeting

International Society for Stem Cell Research 9th Annual Meeting

June 15-18, 2011

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

Toronto, Ontario Canada

www.isscr.org/meetings

Keynote speaker: Robert S. Langer, ScD, MIT

Anne McLaren Memorial Lecture presenter: Nicole M. Le Douarin, PhD, Academie des Sciences

Key Dates

Abstract submission: 9 Nov, 2010 – 8 Feb, 2011

Registration opens: December 2010

Travel Award submission deadline: 8 Feb, 2011

Early registration discount deadline: 19 Apr, 2011



ICSCN International Consortium
of Stem Cell Networks

Consortium Update January 2011

ICSCN Administration News

ICSCN Website

If members would like to share resources, information or news, or advertise lab positions, training awards or other opportunities on the ICSCN website, please send the details to one of the members of the Joint Secretariat ([Rebecca Skinner](#), [Drew Lyall](#), [Ira Herrmann](#), [Marilyn Robertson](#)).

ICSCN Logo and Brand

All ICSCN members are encouraged to use the ICSCN logo and brand events ICSCN events where appropriate. If you require a copy of the logo please email the [Secretariat](#). Members are also encouraged to put the logo on their own websites and place links to the ICSCN site and to the newsletters.



Minutes 2010 ICSCN Meeting

8th Meeting of the ICSCN

Planning Meeting Tuesday 15 June & Main Session Thursday 17 June 2010

San Francisco, USA

Attendees

Name	Network	Planning Meeting	Main Session/Lunch
Michael Werner	Alliance in Regenerative Medicine	No	Yes
Richard Mollard	Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research	No	Yes
Rebecca Skinner	Australian Stem Cell Centre	Yes	Yes
Don Gibbons	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine	No	Yes
Rob Margolin	Genetics Policy Institute	No	Yes
Rob Buckle	ISCF Representative, UK Medical Research Council	No	Yes
Bernie Tuch	New South Wales Stem Cell Network, Australia	No	Yes
Caroline Marshall	New York Stem Cell Foundation	Yes	Yes
Susan Solomon	New York Stem Cell Foundation	No	Yes
David Mckean	New York Stem Cell Foundation	No	Yes
Olivia Flatto	New York Stem Cell Foundation	No	Yes
Kristin Smith	New York Stem Cell Foundation	No	Yes
Helen Clamp	North-East England Stem Cell Institute	Yes	Yes
Patrick Taylor, JD	Representing the ISSCR	No	Yes
Doug Sipp	RIKEN CDB, SNAP, ISSCR International Committee	No	Yes
Marilyn Robertson	Scottish Stem Cell Network	Yes	Yes
Kevin Price	Scottish Stem Cell Network	No	Yes
Drew Lyall	Stem Cell Network Canada	Yes	Yes
Lisa Willemse	Stem Cell Network Canada	No	Yes
Sophie Charge	Stem Cell Network Canada	No	Yes
Michael Rudnicki	Stem Cell Network Canada	No	Yes
Ira Herrmann	Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia	Yes	Yes
Martin Heyer	Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia	No	Yes
Oliver Brustle	Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia	No	Yes
Ben Sykes	UK National Stem Cell Network	Yes	Yes
Belinda Thompson	UK National Stem Cell Network	No	Yes
Lyn Healy	UK Stem Cell Bank	Yes	Yes



Cristobal Aguilar	Valencia Node of The Spanish Stem Cell Bank, Prince Felipe Research Centre	No	Yes
Diana Valbuena	Valencia Node of The Spanish Stem Cell Bank, Prince Felipe Research Centre	No	Yes
Carlos Simon	Valencia Node of The Spanish Stem Cell Bank, Prince Felipe Research Centre	No	Yes
Marc Peschanski	Stem Pole, France	No	Yes

Minutes

Planning Meeting – Tuesday 15 June

Meeting Chair: Mr Drew Lyall

1. Brief overview of 2009/10 accomplishments (Drew Lyall)

In 2009/10 the ICSCN said we would do four things:

- Rogue clinics – various efforts
- PDF – organise a second symposium
- Disease workshops – first one?
- Other workshops - bioinformatics

2. ISSCR Statement on Unproven Therapies, Drew Lyall, SCN

3. ICSCN Member Statements on Unproven Therapies, Ben Sykes, UKNSCN

- Three criteria but peer review pulled due to potential of legal challenges, regulatory oversight and IRB approval
- Five month lag before any companies listed.
- Worries about companies slipping through the net such as X-Cell.
- How do we do as jurisdictions? Need to work through this issue such as share base papers, links, video. However need a Point person – send all stuff to one person.
- Ira to coordinate. All material on stem cell tourism to Ira. Thursday meeting
- Drew to write a paragraph on our response to the ISSCR statement – send around – informal feedback to ISSCR, make them aware of our concerns, X-Cell best example.
- Constructive feedback to ISSCR – disseminating positions through our countries.
- Ben - consolidated list of UK Health Charities, UK Alliance of Health Charities, Association of Medical Research Charities. Ben will work with these groups.
- Attach a large patient advocacy meeting to next year's World Stem Cell Summit? Consider after ISSCR guidelines have been in place for six months.

4. ALS Workshop, Ben Sykes, UKNSCN

- No critical mass of researchers in stem cells, working in this area.
- Workshop dates are to be 24-25 January 2011 in New York with the NYSCF providing venue in-kind. Speakers to be paid for by individual ICSCN members.
- Workshop will cover the current state of science, patients, industry (Tim Allsopp, Pfizer).
- Conference call to pick speakers at the end of June. Names before them. 50-80 attendees. Invitation only.
- Writer – consensus statement, proper global picture.



5. Bioprocessing Workshop, Ira Herrmann, NRW/Helen Clamp, NESCI

- Scale out of autologous therapies and business models to make viable. NESCI could look at this area, international steering committee needed.
- Topics of interest to other networks.
- Align with another meeting? UKNSCN conference in York, 30 March – 1 April 2011. Could do on Monday/Tuesday in Newcastle. MR and HC to work out.
- Ira – Bio imaging is of interest. ENCITE – European Network for Cell Imaging and Tracking Expertise
- Julian has indicated that the EESCN are interested. Only makes sense where you can do a practical component. EESCN ran a workshop – very successful.

6. Other workshops, Marilyn Robertson, SSCN

- MS as potential for next disease workshop.
- UKSCF partnership with MS Society. £1 million stem cell solutions for MS.
- Discuss at main meeting

7. International Stem Cell Awareness Day

- NESCI - stem cell weekend at big shopping centre. SCAD materials on stem cell tourism for the stand.

8. World Stem Cell Summit, Drew Lyall SCN/GPI

- Attach a large patient advocacy meeting to next year's World Stem Cell Summit? Consider after ISSCR guidelines have been in place for six months.

9. Plans for the forthcoming year, Ira Herrmann, NRW

- Open own member activities to ICSCN.
- NRW Travel Awards to other networks to stem cell school

10. 2010 PDF Symposium

- Get information out earlier next year
- Ethics/social issues at World Stem Cell Summit.

11. Role of the National Societies in the ICSCN, Rebecca Skinner, ASCC

12. ICSCN Logistics and administration

13. Any other business



Main Meeting – Thursday 17 June 2010

Meeting Chair: Professor Michael Rudnicki

1. Welcome from the Chair (Michael Rudnicki)

2. Welcome to New Members: Portugal, Ireland and France (Chair)

3. Outcomes of Day 1 Planning Meeting (Drew Lyall)

- Discussion on ISSCR website “Take a Closer Look at Stem Cells”
- Collect international materials on “stem cell tourism”, send to Ira.
- Working with health charities in jurisdictions to roll out information.
- Suggest bring health charities/patient groups together at World Stem Cell Summit 2011
- ICSCN ALS Workshop, NYC, 24-25 January 2011
- Suggested MS workshop – Fall/Spring 2011. SSCN
- ISSCR 2011 Toronto
 - PDF Symposium
 - Annual planning
 - lunch
 - Ethics workshop
- SCAD, 6 October 2010 details to Don Gibbons.

4. Overview of the ISSCR Website on Unproven Therapies, Patrick Taylor, ISSCR

ISSCR Take a Closer Look at Stem Cells Website and Unproven Therapies Taskforce, comment from Patrick Taylor:

- Range of concerns
- Competing policy issues
- Taskforce members were very diverse
- Different priorities
- Conditions for scientific exploration are different to conditions for patients.
- What is the ISSCR’s role as a scientific society?
- Accept risk intelligently
- Diverse legal roles and rules around the world.
- Define good science? Can’t always say.
- Identify competing reasons.
- Simple message agreed upon – pathway for clinical translation of basic discoveries is important.
- Not many scientific societies step into the public sphere.

5. Brief 5 minute overview from each member of your network’s single biggest achievement or learning:

i. New York Stem Cell Foundation

- Useful forum / communication network.
- Privately funded, began in 2006. Gives out grants, fellowships and awards, hosts a conference and symposia and funds a research institute.
- Early career development awards of \$1.5 million / 5 years
- 23 PDFS
- Budget: \$29 million innovation award / \$10 million per annum



ii. RIKEN CDB/Stem Cell Network Asia Pacific

- JSRM Japan Society has 2700 members, includes MD's and holds an annual meeting.
- ISSCR Meeting being held in Japan in 2012.
- New iPS institute headed by Shinya Yamanaka – CiRA 20 laboratories, open laboratory architecture, will focus on new techniques, patient specific iPS cells, cell banking, medical applications and drug development
- SNAP is volunteer based but a budget is coming together

iii. Germany: Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia/ Network in Regenerative Medicine - Berlin

- 58 hESC projects in Germany.
- Discussing funding of German wide stem cell network going on
- North Rhine Westphalia > €1 million per annum,
- €0.6-0.7 million for junior research groups, one per annum.
- iPS funding new institution CARE €80 million plus extra €15 million for iPS
- NRW Stem Cell School, 5-10 December 2010 in Bonn two travel grants available to ICSCN members
- German translation of ISSCR Guidelines and Statement

iv. Stem Cell Network Canada

- SCN – Drew Lyall
- \$6.4 million CAD per annum
- 300-400 patient enquiries per annum
- Year 10 of 14 from Canadian government
- What do we do 5 years from now? - Canadian Stem Cell Foundation
- SL – Clinical Trials Network – investment of \$80 million plus GMP facilities
- Cancer Stem Cell Consortium - \$40 million to match CIRM Disease
- Canada Centre for Commercialisation of Regenerative Medicine
- identifying Federal and State funding sources
- ISSCR 2011 – Art Show, public policy events
- 50 years since Fill and McCullough

v. Valencia Node of The Spanish Stem Cell Bank, Prince Felipe Research Centre

- Valencia, Andalusia, Barcelona – three nodes of stem cell bank
- Administration in Madrid
- organise legal issues
- Many hESC lines available world wide and iPS cell dissemination
- teaching / courses
- Collaborate through other stem cell banks through ISCBI, etc.
- www.isciii.es/ntdocs/lerapia/lerapia_lineas.jsp

vi. UK: UK National Stem Cell Network/Scottish Stem Cell Network/East of England Stem Cell Network/ North-East England Stem Cell Institute/London Regenerative Medicine Network (10 mins)

UKNSCN



- £180,000 per annum budget
- delivery plan includes 23 activities
- annual meeting now has 500 attendees
- regular news bulletin
- bi-monthly patents digest

EESCN

- Struggling for funding
- Workshop last year in cell imaging

LRMN – evening meetings monthly

SSCN

- £0.5 million per annum budget / 5 FTEs, 1 PTE
- roadmap to clinic
- website
- reports
- relocated to the Roslin BioCentre
- re focus to translational research
- popular travel awards
- SSCN road map framework
- autonomy in health for UK government
- re neuron stroke trail in Glasgow

NESCI – Helen

- adult stem cell science, disease conference in August 2009
- new fellow hESC in orthopaedics
- new stem cell labs, pre-GMP space
- stem cell weekend at shopping centre, preceding SCAD, access to public of scientist
- ?? stem cell work
- £1.2 million MRC funding for 25 patients biopsy from good ??
- looking to implement in NHIS framework.

UK Stem Cell Bank - Lyn

- new GMP facility
- five clean rooms
- numerous lines
- new round of funding
- FP7 collaboration progressed, received some funding

vii. California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

CIRM – Don Gibbons

- No annual budget
- \$300 million per annum
- \$1 billion committed
- Disease teams biggest project
- Collaborative funding partners
- \$48 million Canada /MRS
- SCAD October 6
- Post-docs into high school classrooms
- 5,000 kids per day



viii. Australia: Australian Stem Cell Centre/Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research/NSW Stem Cell Network (6 mins)

Australian Stem Cell Centre – Rebecca Skinner

- Focus on secondary school education in 2010, release of Stem Cell Teachers Kit, Back to Schools and BioEyes program
- Patient Information Handbook continues to be popular and useful resource
- ASCC have upgraded and enhanced online communications platforms with Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Blog

ASSCR – Richard Mollard

- volunteer organisation established in 2008.
- mission to promote early career, enhance communication.
- Young investigator grants.
- Conference, Melbourne November 2010
- frequent organising committee recruitment
- increased membership by 50%
- 2010 budget of \$25,000

New South Wales Stem Cell Network – Bernie Tuch

- 520 professionals –scientists, IVF, doctors, etc.
- workshops
- GP education
- advice to State government
- annual budget of \$40,000 from State government
- Manager – paid part time
- Diabetes Australia provide base.

ix. Chemistry Institute-University of São Paulo, Brazil

x. Alliance for Regenerative Medicine

- new organisation
- a collation of industry and patient groups including CIRM, NSCF, SSCN, GPI, and investor groups.
- 55 member organisations
- Aim is to educate policy makers, influence legislation in Congress to improve funding and the regulatory environment
- Regenerative medicine lobbying day in Washington, September
- www.alliancerm.org

xi. Genetics Policy Institute – World Stem Cell Report

GPI – Rob Margolin

- Founded 2003
- Non-profit
- World Stem Cell Summit and World Stem Cell Report 2010
- Stem cell school website – stem cells as a theme
- New project – Stem Cell Action, patient groups in USA.
- World Stem Cell Summit – three tracks, science agenda
- Stem cell school – international education program



- Work together with ICSCN
- Interested – all have education outreach or an agenda
- www.Stemcellschool.org

France – Stem Pole Network

- regional council funding
- Paris area
- 85 teams affiliated to the network
- €2 million per annum funding large equipment (>€2 million per annum), large scale cell culture, etc. cell sorter
- focus on translation
- funding – 5 investigations in to cell therapies
- large executive scientific committee

xii. Other

Irish Stem Cell Foundation (handout available)

Portugal – Ira – short profile

- Establishing network currently
- hESC research allowed

6. Open Discussion on common issues

Bernie Tuch – Unproven therapies

- approach clinical bodies ??
- educate clinicians
- import knowledge

Patrick Taylor agrees.

- ISSCR taskforce is start of process.
- process is no longer linear; mistake to see it as linear
- important what happens next
- Journal Endocrine Review is interested in stem cells

Doug Sipp – poster at ISSCR

→ Aaron Levine followed up with patients who have had stem cell treatments. Doctors say it can't hurt or go ahead. State will rarely step in if there is no established therapy.

Bernie Tuch – list of clinicians in each area. ICSCN facts for patients – Canadian Stem Cell Network.

Ben Sykes – What is next stage in evolution of ICSCN?

Drew – had a discussion on Tuesday. Challenge is we are all running own organisations.

- 1-2 things focused on each year
- Drew, me, etc. are coordination only, we are not doing an agenda.
- Achieve more by working together.
-

Michael Rudi – wants to see international multi discussion teams. More discussion.



ICSCN International Consortium
of Stem Cell Networks

Consortium Update January 2011

Canada next funding round – ask to bring in international partners. Mechanisms to build up multi-teams.

7. Future Activities

8. Next Meeting: Toronto, June 2011



**3rd ICSCN Symposia for Outstanding Young Researchers
Toronto, Canada June 14-15, 2011 (DEADLINE: March 31, 2011)
Call for Participants to ICSCN Member Networks**

The International Consortium of Stem Cell Networks is a 'network of networks' established to accelerate international efforts to advance stem cell therapy for a broad range of debilitating diseases. One of our main goals is to provide the next generation of leaders in the stem cell field unique opportunities to enhance their training and to encourage them to network with their peers in other countries.

Following the success of the past two years, the ICSCN is delighted to announce that it will host its 3rd ICSCN Symposia for Outstanding Young Researchers in Toronto on June 14th and the morning of June 15th, immediately prior to ISSCR. The symposium will take the format of a series of 30-minute seminars given by the each of the participants, together with breaks to provide opportunities for discussion and networking.

Each member network of the ICSCN may choose a maximum of three post-doctoral fellows to come Toronto and present their work to their international peers. A maximum of 20 participants can be accommodated and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

In addition, this year the Canadian Stem Cell Network is offering travel scholarships of CDN \$1,000 to those PDFs submitted and accepted to present at the symposium by Feb 28, 2011. These awards can be used to subsidize travel within Canada either immediately before or after ISSCR, to visit a Canadian stem cell lab for the pupose of establishing new collaborations. Further details of this opportunity will be provided directly to succesful applicants.

Selection Process Each member network may use its own process to select its two participants; please remember however, the intent is to network our best and brightest post-doctoral students.

Costs: While on-site costs will be covered, member networks will need to cover the travel and accommodation costs of their delegates.

Location Venue to be finalised, Toronto.

Submission: Please submit up to three names for your network to Sandy Martino at the Canadian Stem Cell Network (smartino@stemcellnetwork.ca), as soon as possible, and in any event by **no later than March 31, 2011**. The names should be accompanied by (i) a title and 200-word abstract of their seminar topic (ii) their resume (iii) full contact details, and (iv) a j-peg photo (All for preparing the symposia meeting books).

Contact: For further questions please contact Drew Lyall at the Canadian Stem Cell Network: dlyall@stemcellnetwork.ca