

PRESS RELEASE
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NATIONAL STEM CELL CENTRE ANNOUNCES NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM

Australia's \$60 million National Stem Cell Centre (NSCC) has announced executive appointments as it moves from establishment to an operational phase.

Prof. Alan Trounson has been named Founder and Executive Vice Chairman of the NSCC Board of Directors and will assume a new role with the NSCC as Global Science Strategic Advisor, with focus on expanding the NSCC's relationships and influence internationally. Prof Trounson will also be leading Monash University's stem cell research efforts and Monash's contribution to the NSCC.

Dr Hugh Niall, former CEO of Biota and a founding director of the NSCC will take up the role of CEO of the NSCC. Dr Niall will oversee the NSCC's operational activities until a person with appropriate background and qualifications can be identified to take over the CEO role on a permanent basis. Dr Niall will remain on the NSCC Board. Roles of the other senior members of NSCC management – Chief Operating Officer, Dr Dianna DeVore, Chief Financial Officer, Anthony Moore, Chief Education Officer, Graham Jenkin and Chief Scientific Officer, Dr Stephen Livesey – remain unchanged.

NSCC Chairman, Bob Moses said, "Alan has done a tremendous job in bringing the complex elements of the Centre together and building the foundation for world class stem cell research in Australia. He will be able to continue his contribution to the NSCC and coordinate several major Monash University stem cell research programs which will be progressively brought under one roof at the Monash STRIP over the next 12-18 months."

Background

The National Stem Cell Centre was formed out of the "Backing Australia's Ability" initiative of the Commonwealth Government to establish a Biotechnology Centre of Excellence. The Centre was awarded \$43.55 million of Commonwealth funding through the Australian Research Council and Biotechnology Australia to: a) deliver therapeutic treatments from stem cell and tissue repair biotechnology for economic and social benefits, b) increase Australia's biotechnology reputation and global competitive advantage, and c) to enhance public awareness of stem cell and tissue repair research. A grant of \$5.5 million was awarded under the Major National Research Facility (MNRF) program of the Commonwealth Government, Department of

Education, Science and Training to establish the MNRF Division of the NSCC at Monash University, and \$11.375 million from the Victorian State Government awarded through the Science, Technology and Innovation program, to support the core Victorian initiative of stem cell and tissue repair research in the major facility under construction at the Monash STRIP to be progressively occupied beginning early in the new year.

For further information please contact:

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