

# MEDIA RELEASE

## **New Executive Scientific Director for the Australian Stem Cell Centre**

**Thursday 5 October, 2006. Melbourne, Australia:**

**The Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Stem Cell Centre (ASCC), Professor Stephen Livesey, today announced the appointment of Professor Joseph Sambrook as Executive Scientific Director, commencing Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.**

Professor Joe Sambrook is regarded as a world-class researcher and one of the founding scientists in the field of molecular biology.

During the course of his career he has worked at a series of leading scientific institutions, including the Laboratory of Molecular Biology at Cambridge, the Salk Institute in California, the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas. Since his return to Australia in 1995, he has worked at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne as Foundation Director of Research and more recently, Distinguished Fellow.

Professor Sambrook has a number of very significant scientific advances to his credit as well as being a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Australian Academy of Sciences.

He is internationally renowned for his studies of viruses and the molecular biology of normal and cancerous cells, which effectively changed the ways in which scientists now approach cellular development of many forms of human cancer.

At the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, New York, his group developed much of the technology which was later used to produce genetic and physical maps of the entire human genome.

At the University of Texas, Professor Sambrook's research led to a new generation of blood-clot dissolving enzymes that are now in clinical use for patients suffering from hearts attacks and stroke.

In addition to his strong record in research, Professor Sambrook is well known for his ability to build world-class research institutions by attracting scientists of promise and guiding their science and fostering the successful development of their careers.

Professor Sambrook is also the founder and Director of The Kathleen Cunningham Consortium for research into Familial Breast Cancer, known as KConFab. This is the first national organisation for research into any cancer and now provides material and data to research projects world-wide. Professor Sambrook will continue to hold this position in conjunction with his new role at the Australian Stem Cell Centre.

His role at the Australian Stem Cell centre will be to lead the advancement of select research projects toward clinical development in preparation for pre clinical trials and commercial collaboration. Professor Sambrook will also act to guide and mentor research groups and individual scientists to achieving their research goals.

His wealth of scientific, clinical and commercial experience will be fundamental in leading research activities at the ASCC.

'I am delighted and honoured to welcome Professor Sambrook to the Australian Stem Cell Centre team, said Professor Stephen Livesey, CEO.

'Joe's capabilities as well as his experience will be a driving force as we develop therapeutic and commercial benefits from stem cell and related technologies.'

Professor Sambrook is a widely-published author of scientific books and scientific papers. His works include a set of books entitled *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual (also known as the Cloner's 'Bible')* and *Inspiring Science - Jim Watson and the Age of DNA*.

## Ends

For further information or to arrange an interview, contact:

Michelle Singe  
Public Affairs Director  
Australian Stem Cell Centre  
+613 9271 1115 or 0423 056 952  
[michelle.singe@stemcellcentre.edu.au](mailto:michelle.singe@stemcellcentre.edu.au)  
[www.stemcellcentre.edu.au](http://www.stemcellcentre.edu.au)

## Background on Professor Joe Sambrook

- Fellow of the Royal Society
- American Cancer Society Career Award
- NIH Human Genome Program Centre Committee member
- A pioneer expert on DNA profiling in homicide and rape cases in Texas when DNA profiling was not automatically admissible as evidence.
- Has mentored and supervised more than 20 postdoctoral fellows, one of which is a Nobel Prize winner, another a CEO of a major Biotech company, 8

are full professors, one is now a stockbroker, another is an Editor-in-Chief of a major scientific journal and one is a Dean of a Graduate School.

## **Background to the Australian Stem Cell Centre**

The **Australian Stem Cell Centre** is Australia's Biotechnology Centre of Excellence. The Centre has partnered with nine leading Australian universities and research institutions and brings together a critical mass of outstanding Australian stem cell research that is internationally competitive and recognised.

The Centre's principal objective is to integrate a national multi-institutional research and discovery program to develop treatments for serious disease through the application of stem cells and related technologies.

The Australian Stem Cell Centre is funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments.