

MEDIA RELEASE

New Chief for the Australian Stem Cell Centre

Tuesday 11 July, 2006. Melbourne, Australia:

The Chairman of the Australian Stem Cell Centre (ASCC), Professor Vicki Sara, today announced the appointment of Professor Stephen Livesey as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Centre, effective today.

“Managing the successful growth and development of the Australian Stem Cell Centre to deliver on the promise of stem cell research is both a great challenge and an enormous responsibility,” said Professor Sara.

“Stephen is both a physician and an accomplished scientist who has pioneered a highly successful biotechnology company in the United States. This rare combination of scientific, clinical and commercial experience is complemented by Stephen’s deep personal commitment to the success of the Centre.”

Professor Livesey has served the Australian Stem Cell Centre as its Chief Scientific Officer since June 2003, being one of the first employees of the Centre. He returned to Australia to take up this position after spending 18 years in the United States, founding and leading LifeCell, a successful US-listed biotechnology company.

Professor Sara congratulated Dr Hugh Niall for three years of outstanding stewardship as CEO. “On behalf of the Board of Directors and the ASCC, I would like to acknowledge and personally thank Hugh for the great contribution he has made to the organisation,” said Professor Sara.

Professor Livesey, in accepting the role of CEO, commented that the Australian Stem Cell Centre is an organisation with an enormous opportunity to develop real healthcare solutions.

“The Australian Stem Cell Centre has what it takes to make a real and positive impact on the way we currently treat a number of diseases. We are fortunate to have the best scientific talent linked to institutions and universities with world-class reputations. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a winning formula,” predicted Professor Livesey.

Biography

Professor Stephen Livesey is a world leader in the field of tissue regeneration. He has both the scientific and commercial experience to ensure that the highest quality strategic research is performed at the ASCC. After completing a medical degree (1977) and PhD (1985) at Melbourne University, he accepted the role of Research Assistant Professor as a CJ Martin Fellow at the University of Texas Health Science Centre in Houston in 1985. Professor Livesey then moved to Houston in the United States where he was a director of the Cryobiology Research Centre and a Research Assistant Professor in the Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Centre.

In 1986 he co-founded LifeCell Corporation, a leading company in regenerative medicine in the United States and in 1991 was appointed Executive Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer of the Corporation.

In June 2003, the Australian Stem Cell Centre successfully repatriated Professor Livesey back to Australia as the Chief Scientific Officer.

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For further information or to arrange an interview, contact:

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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.