

The Australian Stem Cell Centre is the first Australian Biotechnology centre of Excellence

An embryonic stem cell has the unique capacity to renew itself indefinitely.

Stem cells are the body's own biological repair kit.



www.stemcellcentre.edu.au

Statement from the Interim Board of the Australian Stem Cell Centre

Wednesday, 10 September 2008, Melbourne Australia:

The Interim Board of the Australian Stem Cell Centre (ASCC) reaffirms its commitment to supporting and promoting high quality stem cell research in Australia.

The Interim Board has full confidence in the quality of ASCC scientists and is committed to the completion of current research projects.

The ASCC has sufficient funds to meet all of its commitments, including the payment of staff (and external projects).

The Interim Board is reviewing the ASCC governance model and will make a transition to a more inclusive model where current Members and Stakeholders of the Centre have a greater role in setting strategic direction.

Work is underway to appoint an Independent Chair and an announcement will be made in the near future.

The new model and the appointment of an Independent Chair will improve the Centre's capacity to undertake research of the highest quality in the stem cell field.

The Interim Board and Acting CEO are maintaining an open dialogue with the Department of Innovation, Industry Science and Research and the Australian Research Council as it develops this model.

The ASCC Interim Board Members: Professor Edwina Cornish, Professor David Siddle and Dr Henry De Aizpurua.

Ends



**Australian
Stem Cell
Centre**

About the Australian Stem Cell Centre

The **Australian Stem Cell Centre** is Australia's Biotechnology Centre of Excellence. The ASCC partners with leading Australian universities and research institutions, and brings together a critical mass of outstanding Australian stem cell research that is internationally competitive and well regarded.

The ASCC's vision is to undertake research of the highest quality in the stem cell field.

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

Research at the Australian Stem Cell Centre

The ASCC has research laboratories located at Monash University and The University of Queensland. These laboratories house the Centre's internal research groups and are supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure and core services including flow cytometry, human embryonic stem cell culture laboratories, animal services and microscopy. The internal research groups perform research in the areas of: adult lung stem cells, renal regeneration, developmental biology, human embryonic stem cell technologies, the stem cell niche, stem cell expansion and tissue repair.

The majority of the research supported by the ASCC is performed in the laboratories of key stem cell biologists across the nation. This collaborative relationship allows the ASCC to tap into excellence in stem cell biology and also to forge multi-disciplinary teams to take innovative approaches towards stem cell research that may translate into therapeutic outcomes.

The Centre's current external research portfolio includes researchers in Victoria at Monash University, the University of Melbourne and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, New South Wales at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and Queensland at the University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience and the Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology and the Mater Medical Research Institute.

In total the ASCC directly funds or provides in-kind support to over 200 researchers at eight locations involved in over 20 projects.

Detailed information on the ASCC's research portfolio can be found on the Centre's website.

For further information or to arrange an interview, contact:

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