

July 15 2008



**Statement in Response to Queensland Government Media Release and Announcement from the Queensland Premier**

The Queensland Premier, Anna Bligh today announced a new grant to the Australian Stem Cell Centre to extend and expand iPS research to its Queensland Node. The grant will allow researchers affiliated with the ASCC to utilise bioinformatics technology and skills, unique to Brisbane, to study the genetic expression of different types of stem cells. The grant will also allow for the creation of new iPS cells, a first for the Australian Stem Cell Centre.

The ASCC's Chief Scientific Officer, Professor Melissa Little said "This is a unique opportunity to clearly determine whether the process of creating iPS cells truly does reprogram the DNA back to the original state of an embryonic stem cell".

"This Queensland Government grant will allow the Australian Stem Cell Centre to apply the world class genomics technology at the University of Queensland with the unique skills of the Australian Stem Cell Centre's Queensland Node whilst enhancing collaborations between world leading researchers along the East Coast" said the Australian Stem Cell Centre's Chief Executive Officer Professor Stephen Livesey.

This announcement builds on a collaboration between the ASCC and Sydney IVF who were recently awarded funding under the *NSW/VIC Government Stem Cell Research Grant Program* to compare iPS cells with human embryo derived stem cells and stem cells derived from somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT). These experiments will provide a greater understanding of the relative utility, advantages and potential barriers to the clinical use of iPS cells as compared directly to human embryonic stem cells and SCNT stem cells.

To arrange an interview with the ASCC please contact:

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For background on iPS cells please see the ASCC's [fact sheet](#) on our website.