

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.



Australian Stem Cell Centre

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Media release

Australian Stem Cell Centre Appoints Interim Scientific Director

Friday, 6 February 2009, Melbourne Australia:

The Interim Chair of the Australian Stem Cell Centre (ASCC), Professor Graham Macdonald, today announced the appointment of Professor Joseph Sambrook to the role of Interim Scientific Director, commencing immediately.

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

Professor Sambrook is joining the ASCC on a part time basis to oversee the scientific direction and strategy of the Centre during its current transitional phase. Professor Sambrook was previously the ASCC's Executive Scientific Director in 2006-2007.

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. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Australian Academy of Sciences.

Professor Sambrook's role will be to oversee and implement the ASCC's new research strategy due to begin in July 2009.

"I am pleased to welcome Professor Sambrook back to the Australian Stem Cell Centre at this critical time", said Professor Graham Macdonald, Interim Chair. "Professor Sambrook's leadership and wealth of scientific, clinical and commercial experience will enable the Centre to position its research for long term sustainability and international competitiveness".

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, guiding their science and fostering the successful development of their careers.

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For further information or to arrange an interview, contact:



**Australian
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The **Australian Stem Cell Centre** is Australia's Biotechnology Centre of Excellence. The ASCC has partnered 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, in order to discover and ultimately commercialise new therapies for human disease.

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