

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

New Board Members Appointed

Tuesday, 14 April 2009, Melbourne Australia:

The Interim Chair of the Australian Stem Cell Centre (ASCC), Professor Graham Macdonald, today announced the appointment of five new members to the Australian Stem Cell Centre's Board of Directors.

The ASCC on 1 April 2009 appointed five new members to its Board of Directors. Professor Graham Macdonald, interim Chair said "I am pleased to welcome Professor Richard Smallwood, Dr Peter Riddles, Dr Graeme Blackman, Professor Brandon Wainwright and Dr Christopher Juttner who between them bring a wealth of experience from across the research and biotechnology sectors". Professor Macdonald added that "Their combined expertise will ensure that the ASCC continues to remain at the forefront of stem cell research whilst ensuring the highest level of governance."

Professor MacDonald went on to thank the interim Board comprising of Professor Edwina Cornish, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Monash University, Professor David Siddle Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), University of Queensland and Dr Henry De Aizpurua, Head of Business Development from the Howard Florey Institute "for their time and commitment in guiding the Australian Stem Cell Centre through this difficult period. Their contribution, in overseeing the ASCC since September 2008, has been pivotal in the development of a new strategy for the ASCC, which will consolidate past achievements and enhance Australia's excellence in stem cell research into the future". To assist the new Board during this transition and ensure an effective handover, Dr Henry De Aizpurua and Professors' Macdonald and Cornish will remain on the Board for a short period.

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About the new Board Members

Professor Richard Smallwood AO

Professor Smallwood is currently Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University of Melbourne. As Professor of Medicine with the University of Melbourne, Professor Smallwood was Head of the Department of Medicine, Chairman of the Division of Medicine and Director of Gastroenterology at the Austin and Repatriation Medical Centres. He has published over 250 clinical and scientific papers, primarily in the field of the liver and its diseases. Professor Smallwood was President of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians from 1996 to 1998. In addition to his extensive Australian and international clinical and research experience, Professor Smallwood has served as



chair of a large number of organisations including the National Health and Medical Research Council, the National Influenza Pandemic Advisory Council, the National Health Information Management Advisory Council, the National Health Priority Action Council, the National Blood Authority and the Ministerial Taskforce for Cancer in Victoria. Professor Smallwood has also been a member of the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council and was seconded to Canberra as Australia's Chief Medical Officer. He also provided consultation and advice on international aspects of health, and in 2000 was a Vice President of the World Health Assembly in Geneva. Professor Smallwood's other current appointments include President of the Australian Medical Council and Chair of its Specialist Education Accreditation Committee, and Member of the Boards of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Vision 2020 Australia, the National Stroke Foundation and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. He was made a Fellow of Trinity College, the University of Melbourne and was also made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1997 for services to medicine.

Dr Peter Riddles

Dr Riddles has extensive experience in biotechnology where he has been a board member of numerous biotechnology companies. Additionally, Dr Riddles has also served on a number of advisory committees including the Innovation Australia Board, the Queensland Biotechnology Advisory Council and the Industrial Biotechnology Capability Review for Federal Government Advisory Council. Dr Riddles is founder and Director of ViciBio Pty Ltd, an organisation that provides advisory services in policy, governance and strategy to governments, organisations and enterprises involved in science and technology innovation and new venture creation. He is also an honorary life member of AusBiotech, Australia's biotechnology industry organisation. In addition to this extensive biotechnology experience, Dr Riddle's also has extensive research experience where he led major research projects at CSIRO and was appointed an adjunct professor at The University of Queensland.

Dr Graeme Blackman

Dr Blackman is a former Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the Victorian College of Pharmacy. He is presently Chairman of IDT Australia Ltd, an ASX listed public company employing over 140 scientists and providing research and development and manufacturing services for the pharmaceutical industry locally and internationally. He has been an active participant in various policy discussions concerning the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry for several years. In particular he has chaired the Commonwealth Government's Pharmaceuticals Industry Action Agenda which developed a policy framework for the industry over a ten year period. He has been or continues to be a member of various Commonwealth and State advisory committees and working groups in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, including the Australian Biotechnology Advisory Council (ABAC), the Pharmaceutical Industry Working Group (PIWG) and the Pharmaceutical Industry Strategy Group (PISG).

Dr Christopher Juttner

Dr Juttner has more than 35 years experience in providing, analysing and developing advanced medical care in haematology, cancer and general clinical medicine. Amongst many achievements, he established the Bone Marrow Transplant program for South Australia at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) and served as Director of Clinical Haematology at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Head of the Division of Haematology at the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science. In addition to his clinical career, Dr.Juttner has extensive biotechnology experience which includes senior management appointments in Australia and the United States. He served as Vice President of Clinical Development at SyStemix Incorporated (USA), then later with Genetic Therapy Incorporated (USA), where he managed clinical development programs. Dr Juttner also served as an independent and later executive director and Senior VP of Clinical Development of BresaGen Ltd, a pioneer Australian stem cell company. Drawing upon this considerable experience, Dr Juttner continues to provide consultancy services to Novartis Australia and Stem Cells Inc (USA).



Professor Brandon Wainwright

Professor Wainwright has an extensive academic record that included appointments at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, The University of London, where he served as a MRC Senior Research Fellow. Upon returning to Australia, Professor Wainwright began an association with The University of Queensland where he currently is the Director, Institute for Molecular Bioscience. His current research focus is the identification of genes responsible for common genetic disease, in particular cystic fibrosis and basal cell carcinoma of the skin. Professor Wainwright has received a number of awards including the Boehringer Mannheim Medal of the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Gottschalk Medal of the Australian Academy of Science and the Fisher Prize, the University of Adelaide. In addition to this appointment, Professor Wainwright has also served as Scientific Director, Co-operative Research Centre for the Discovery of Genes for Common Human Diseases and Research Executive and Chair, Project Grants Committee for the National Health and Medical Research Council. Professor Wainwright also currently serves on the boards of the Australian Genome Research Facility and the Australian Phenomics Facility and is a member of the Health and Medical Research Council of Queensland.

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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.