

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

www.stemcellcentre.edu.au

Media release

Review of the Australian Stem Cell Centre

Thursday, 26 February 2009, Melbourne Australia

The Australian Stem Cell Centre (ASCC) welcomed the 2008 independent review of Centre's research, operations and performance in meeting its Objectives under the Biotechnology Centre of Excellence Deed of Agreement with the Australian Government.

The review reaffirms that Australian stem cell science is of a high standard and internationally recognised. It highlights some of the Centre's achievements over its relatively short five year history, including the calibre of the ASCC's funded scientists and the excellence of their research. Scientific publications and presentations were considered to be excellent and growing as the Centre matures. In addition, some of the ASCC's research enabling activities such as post-graduate programs, public education and international linkages attracted favourable comment.

The ASCC is working to closely examine all of the review findings and recommendations.

Since the conclusion of the review there has been significant positive change at the ASCC with more measures currently in development. The ASCC is focussing on the future and is developing a new strategy and business plan that will allow it to position Australian stem cell research on the international stage for excellence, sustainability and competitiveness.

"The ASCC is committed to maximising outcomes from its research and operational activities" said Interim Chair, Professor Graham Macdonald, who went on to say that "the Centre has already contributed to a greater understanding of the biology of stem cells and will continue to add to scientific understanding of this important area, and its application to meeting human health challenges, for the remaining Government funding period and beyond".

- Ends -

For further information or to arrange an interview, contact:

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Background

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 ASCC is funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments.

The ASCC's Biotechnology Centre of Excellence Deed of Agreement with the Australian Government concludes on 30 June 2011.