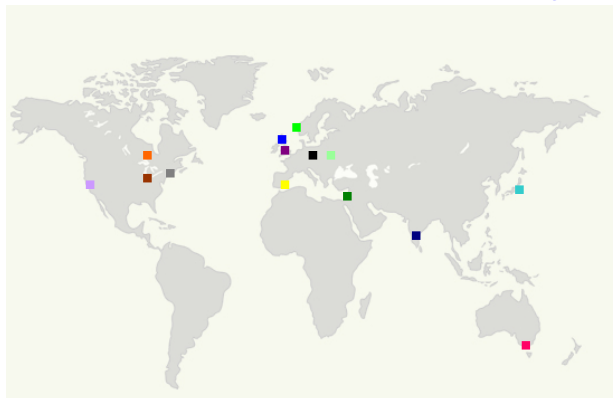


ICSCN

International Consortium of Stem Cell Networks

Consortium Update – February 2007



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Australian Stem Cell Centre - Human Embryonic Stem Cell Training Course

One spot reserved for students/post-docs of ICSCN members with no course or accommodation costs.

The Australian Stem Cell Centre is making one position available for students and early post-docs of ICSCN members for their [Human Embryonic Stem Cell Training Workshop](#) stem cell training course being held in Melbourne from 4-7 June 2007.



This comprehensive 4 day training workshop will provide hands-on, laboratory-based training accompanied by a series of lectures. The workshop will deal with the passaging, manipulation and daily maintenance of human embryonic stem (hES) cell lines and mouse embryonic fibroblast (mEF) feeder lines which support hES cell growth in culture.

There will be no charge for the course (normally valued at AUD\$1,375), and the ASCC has generously offered to cover the costs of accommodation but all other costs will be the responsibility of the participant.

The ASCC runs this intensive training course four times a year with positions regularly sold out.

Application forms are available through Julianna Balogh +61-3-9271-1166; email julianna.balogh@stemcellcentre.edu.au, please include in your email which ICSCN member you received this information through.

Completed application forms must be sent back with an accompanying CV, statement of why the applicant wishes to participate in this course and a letter of support from the applicant's mentor or laboratory leader.

The successful candidate will be selected on merit.

Closing Date: 23 March 2007

Candidates will be notified of their outcome by early April 2007.

Please distribute to your network members.

Canadian Stem Cell Network Secures Funding for ICSCN Activities



The Canadian Stem Cell Network is delighted to share with consortium colleagues that we have been successful in securing funding to support some ICSCN activities over the next two years. Thank you to everyone who contributed letters of support.

Web based patient FAQ's

In the coming months our first priority will be to work with you to build a **web-based Patient FAQ that can be hosted on the ICSCN/members websites**. As you will recall from our meeting in Toronto at ISSCR last year, this was identified as a priority area for many of us, given the volume of calls/e-mails we all receive on a weekly basis.

We have now engaged a writer, Denise Jillions, here in Ottawa to undertake and manage these activities, and a note from her describing progress to date and the next steps will be sent to you in the next few days. In the short term we would like you to do three things:

1. Review the list of proposed disease areas and suggest additional topics if you feel we are missing major areas.
2. Review the format of the proposed web-pages and provide feedback whether it will be useful for you.
3. After reviewing the initial draft for Parkinson's disease, send us any additional information you would like us to add reflecting the stem cell research efforts with respect to Parkinson's disease in your jurisdiction/country.

Once we have the format nailed down, we hope to be able to send you one disease area for review every 7-10 days until we are done. I urge you to take a few minutes to review these documents – with your help we can make this Patient FAQ an international resource that is second to none.

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Please contact: Drew Lyall, Executive Director, Stem Cell Network, 613-562-5384,
drew@stemcellnetwork.ca

Annual SCN International Poster Competition - 15 Travel Awards available to Consortium post-doctoral fellows

The Canadian Stem Cell Network (SCN) is initiating an annual competition to make 15 Travel awards available to PDFs in other ICSCN member networks to participate in the Canadian Network's annual scientific meeting, followed by visits to SCN member labs. The purpose is to promote collaboration between Canada and other member Networks. Selection will be based on review of an abstract to be presented in a poster at the meeting, and application details will be distributed in the spring.

Please contact: Drew Lyall, Executive Director, Stem Cell Network, 613-562-5384,
drew@stemcellnetwork.ca

ICSCN Meeting, Cairns 2007

ICSCN meeting scheduled for Saturday, 16 June 2007

Due to popular demand, the ICSCN will meet over the course of a whole day followed by an early evening networking cocktail function. Please book this date in your diaries now. The call for agenda items will happen shortly.

ICSCN PDF Workshop in Conjunction with ICSCN Meeting, Cairns 2007

Saturday, 16 June 2007

One other initiative the Canadian SCN is keen to initiate is a workshop for early career PDF's held in conjunction with each ICSCN meeting. The workshop would take place over one day at the same time as the ICSCN meeting, and would be attended by 1-2 PDFs from each member country who would each give short seminars to the other participants. The objective would be to promote international collaboration and networking amongst researchers at the beginning of their careers, and as I am sure most groups will be supporting at least a couple of PDFs to attend ISSCR, this could create some added value for all of us. SCN would be happy to organize the attendance and agenda if there is sufficient support, and work with the Australian Stem Cell Centre to do so.

Please contact: Drew Lyall, Executive Director, Stem Cell Network, 613-562-5384,
drew@stemcellnetwork.ca or [Rebecca Skinner](mailto:Rebecca.Skinner@stemcellnetwork.ca) to indicate your support or provide any suggestions.

Patent Ruling Tightens already Restrictive Rules in Germany

German court revokes patent held by Prof Oliver Brüstle on grounds it is 'contrary to public order'

A German court has revoked a patent on a method for generating a class of human embryonic stem cells. The December ruling is seen as yet another setback for stem-cell research in a nation where it is already constrained by tight regulation. The federal patent court in Munich heard a charge brought by Greenpeace that the patent, held by Prof Oliver Brüstle, University of Bonn (and ICSCN representative for the Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia) on a way to generate precursor nerve cells, was 'contrary to public order'. Greenpeace argued that the derivation of the cell lines in question had involved the destruction of human embryos, which breaches guidelines issued by the German Patent Office. The judge quickly ruled in Greenpeace's favour.

The decision was made in the wake of a public call by Germany's largest research agency, the DFG, for a relaxation of stem-cell laws, which are stricter than those of many other European countries.

Prof Brüstle says he will now appeal to the Supreme Court, arguing that the ruling goes beyond German law, which allows the use of human embryonic stem-cell lines created before 2002. Just last year, the ministry of research awarded Prof Brüstle a grant for work with human embryonic stem cells derived before 2002. He points out that the ministry stipulates that its grantees should attempt to patent inventions from projects that it supports.

For more information on Prof Brüstle's research please visit http://imbie.meb.uni-bonn.de/rnb/index.php?page_id=23

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UK National Stem Cell Network Established

The UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN) has appointed the members of its first Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will direct the early operation of the Network, which has been set up following the recommendations of the 2005 Pattison Report of the UK Stem Cell Initiative.

The Network has appointed Lord Naren Patel of Dunkeld as the first chair of its Steering Committee, which will include seven other members:

- Professor Sir Martin Evans FRS, University of Cardiff
- Professor Jon Frampton, University of Birmingham
- Dr Chris Mason FRCS, University College London
- Professor Roger Pedersen, University of Cambridge
- Professor Dame Julia Polak FRS, Imperial College London
- Professor Brian Salter, University of East Anglia
- Professor Michael Whitaker FIBiol FMedSci, University of Newcastle

The UKNSCN will be formally launched in early 2007 and will then aim to co-ordinate existing stem cell research activities in the UK. Through sharing of expertise and technology it will become the focal point for communication about stem cell research to the public and industry. The Network will also be the national voice of stem cell science to policy makers as well as acting as the main initial point of contact for overseas researchers and promoting the uptake and use of stem cells by scientific, business and medical communities.

More information will be available at E-mail: uksa@uknscn.org Website: <http://www.uknscn.org>

ICSCN Draft Workplan and Statutes

Consortium comments sought

The ICSCN draft [Workplan](#) and [Statutes](#) for 2007 have been provided to all groups for input and comment. Please review the documents and provide comments when possible.

CIRM Receives National Academies Report on Risks to Egg Donors

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) on 6 February 2007 received a report from the National Academies' Institute of Medicine (IOM) and National Research Council (NRC) on the medical and psychological risks to women who donate oocytes (human eggs) for research. The report, *Assessing the Medical Risks of Human Oocyte Donation for Stem Cell Research*, follows a scientific workshop convened by the IOM in San Francisco on September 28, 2006. It was commissioned by CIRM to address three principal questions:

- What is known about the risks of egg donation?
- What additional research needs to be undertaken?
- What can be done to minimize the known risks?

The IOM report is available at <http://www.nas.edu/morenews/20070206.html>.

United Kingdom – Review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act

The HFEA releases a press statement regarding human-animal hybrid research

The [Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority \(HFEA\)](#) has decided that applications to create hybrid human-animal embryos as part of stem cell research “*would potentially fall with the remit of the HFEA to regulate and licence*” and would not be prohibited by current legislation (see [press release](#)). However, because the issues associated with hybrid and chimera research differ from those relating to other forms of human embryo research, the HFEA intends to hold a formal consultation on the topic before the applications may be passed to the licensing committee for consideration.

In December 2006, legislative revisions to the UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act were proposed in which the British government sought to reflect developments in reproductive technology and research since the act's inception in 1990. Among the 25 [recommendations](#) are new regulations

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on embryo research that combines human and non-human material. The recommendations take into account acute public concerns over where such research might lead, noting "that there is considerable public unease with the possible creation of embryos combining human and animal material".

Two UK teams have put in requests to mix human and animal cells in order to find cures for degenerative diseases.

The consultation is due to be completed in the northern autumn.

ISSCR 2007, Cairns Australia



Abstract Submission Deadline Extended to 15 Feb 2007

ISSCR is extending the deadline for abstract submission for the 5th ISSCR Annual Meeting to February 15, 2007, Noon CST USA. [Click here](#) to submit an abstract.

The 5th ISSCR Annual Meeting will be June 17 – 20 in Cairns, QLD, Australia.

The Annual Meeting has become the pre-eminent international forum for the presentation of stem cell science. This will be our first meeting outside of North America, acknowledging the global nature of stem cell research and the broad international membership of our society.

Exhibit at the 5th ISSCR Annual Meeting

For more information about exhibiting at Cairns please visit the ISSCR website at <http://isscr.org/meetings/exhibits.htm>

Travel Awards

The ISSCR is offering an unprecedented number of travel awards for the 5th Annual Meeting in Cairns, Queensland, Australia. Over 500 requests have been submitted for travel grants, most of those by junior investigators from all regions of the world. ISSCR will be able to accommodate approximately 200 requests. The airfare will be prohibitive for many attendees and it is felt that many will need to decline acceptance of their abstract poster, if they do not receive at least partial compensation for their travel needs.

The ISSCR is already aware that some regional networks are providing travel stipends, i.e. the Scottish & Canadian Stem Cell to the Cairns meeting. The New York Stem Cell Foundation makes travel awards possible for junior investigators through the ISSCR. The Australian Stem Cell Centre has also requested that applicants from Australia and New Zealand who are eligible for government grant stipends submit their request through the ISSCR.

The Board of Directors is urging all networks to make every effort to assure a good turnout at the Cairns meeting so that ISSCR can continue its goal of holding Annual Meetings in different regions of the world. It is possible to provide travel support dollars to the ISSCR and have the entire amount used to fund applicants that requested travel awards from your constituent network.

Please contact Michael Hagedorn, ISSCR Program Administrator, at mhagedorn@isscr.org or 1-947-509-1944 by March 15 to make arrangements.

International Events

Conferences

March 2007

Stem Cell Interactions with their Microenvironmental Niche, Keystone, CO, USA

2-7 March 2007, Keystone Resort, Keystone, Colorado

This meeting will examine select stem cell niches to explore unifying principles and identify opportunities for application in tissue regeneration and cancer therapy.

The full [conference program](#) is now available.

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Stem Cells and Cancer, Keystone, CO, USA

2-7 March 2007, Keystone Resort, Keystone, Colorado

The goals of this meeting are to understand and present the most current research into the cellular and molecular biology of cancer stem cells.

The full [conference program](#) is now available.

May 2007

European Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine Congress 2007

1-3 May 2007, The Landmark London Hotel, London, UK

More information on the conference [website](#).

June 2007

I-BIOMED ISRAEL 2007 - The International Stem Cell Meeting: Stem Cells and their Regulatory Microenvironment

Israel, 5-7 June, 2007

This meeting is to be held in-conjunction to the Israeli BioMed convention on June 2007. It will feature many well known international stem cell scientists speaking on a range of topics. For more information please visit the website at: http://www.kenes.com/biomed/conference/stem_cell.asp

Please note that in addition to plenary sessions devoted to invited lectures, we shall have scientific sessions available for oral presentations of 10-20 min, which will be selected from the abstracts. We shall also hold guided poster sessions with optional mini oral communications. If you would like your abstract to be considered as a free communications lecture, check the corresponding box on the abstract submission form.

Abstract Submission is now open, please visit: <http://www.kenes.com/biomed/conference/call.asp>

5th ISSCR Annual Meeting

17-20 June 2007, Cairns Convention Centre - Cairns, Queensland, Australia

Please visit the ISSCR [Conference website](#) for full details.

October 2007

Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia 4th Annual International Meeting

8-9 Oct, 2007 - Dusseldorf, Germany.

The meeting will focus on signalling, chromatin structure, cancer, aging, biological niche and the translation of stem cell technologies. More information soon at: www.congress.stemcells.nrw.de

EuroStemCell - Advances in Stem Cell Research

12-14 October 2007 - Stockholm, Sweden

Website not yet available, please visit [EuroStemCell](#) home page.

New York Stem Cell Foundation Annual Conference

October 15-16, 2007 - The Rockefeller University, New York City

Translational Stem Cell Research and Public Policy Panel

More information soon and details of last year's conference on the [NYSCEF](#) website.

Articles and Links of Interest

Policy and Ethics

- The ISSCR has developed a table that summarises legislation governing human embryonic stem cell research worldwide including the policies of each of the U.S. state. The table is available on the ISSCR Web site at <http://www.isscr.org/public/regions/index.cfm>
- Top 100 Stem Cell Publications of 2006. Click [here](#) for the full list.
- Stem Cells in India: emerging economics and the politics of globalisation. http://www.ioh.uea.ac.uk/biopolitics/wp_16/wp16.pdf
- Science magazine on 1 December, 2006 has published a story on careers in embryonic stem cell research in Europe. The article [Navigating the Stem-Cell Research Maze](#) the political and regulatory frameworks in different European countries along with training and funding opportunities.
- **Stem Cell Research - Status, Prospects, Prerequisites.**

EMBO has published a [summary document](#) providing an introduction to the field of stem cell biology and its terminology for non-specialists, and presenting current stem cell research and development in a variety of areas. The document outlines action needed at policy level to enable stem cell research to fulfil its potential in Europe, and contains contributions from a group of leading scientists in stem cell research, application and patient advocacy, who met under the auspices of EMBO in April 2006.

- [ISSCR Guidelines](#) for the Conduct of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research.
- Consensus Statement of the '[Hinxton Group](#)': An International Consortium on Stem Cells, Ethics and Law.

Public Outreach Tools

- The **RIKEN CDB** has created a brief animation to highlight some of the basic biological properties of stem cells, explain the different types of stem cell found in the embryonic body and the adult and illustrate the roles of these "master cells" in development and regeneration. View online on the [RIKEN](#) website.
- **A Stem Cell Story** - EuroStemCell public outreach film. An award winning, engaging, accessible and visually stunning introduction to the world of stem cell research. View online on the [EuroStemCell website](#).
- **ENGAGE: Stem Cells** is a high school teaching resource on stem cell research developed through the Ontario Genomics Institute (OGI) by Genome Canada, and the Joint Centre for Bioethics (JCB) at the University of Toronto and available to [download](#) from the Stem Cell Network, Canada website.
The resource was developed in collaboration with teachers and students and has been distributed at no charge to high schools across Canada.
- The Australian Stem Cell Centre is happy to provide free of charge to biology teachers and interested students an interactive CD, **basically STEM CELLS**, that addresses multiple senior biology concepts and exposes students to the exciting and controversial world of stem cell science. To obtain a CD, please [contact us](#).

Websites of interest

www.isscr.org

www.stemcells.net

www.stemcellscience.org

www.stemcellnews.com

ICSCN Temporary Website

The ICSCN web address is now live; www.stemcellconsortium.org now links directly to the Consortium page on the ASCC website. If networks would like information added to this page then please email the [Secretariat](#) and it can be added immediately.

ICSCN Logo

A logo is currently being developed for the Consortium. Draft versions will be available in March 2007 for comment.

Next Month

Please send articles, activities, conferences, recruitment opportunities and other items of interest for next month's newsletter by March 9, 2007.

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Appendix 1: ICSCN Workplan 2007 (DRAFT)

1. Consortium Guidelines, Documentation and Administration

1.1. Consortium Aims and Objectives

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Revise and confirm the strategic aims and objectives of the consortium	Co-chairs/Secretariat/ICSCN	Feb 2007
Draft Consortium Aims and Objectives	Canada SCN/Secretariat/ICSCN	March 2007
Review aims and objectives annually and set priorities for the upcoming year.	ICSCN	June 2007

1.2. Consortium Statutes

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Draft statutes	Secretariat	June 2006
Consortium to review statutes and propose changes	ICSCN	April 2007
Finalise statutes and formally adopt.	ICSCN	June 2007
Review Statutes as needed	ICSCN	Ongoing

1.3. Consortium Affiliations

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Investigate and formalise ICSCN affiliations with other associations eg ISSCR, ISCF	Secretariat/ICSCN	Ongoing
Confirm that the Consortium will not duplicate the work of either the ISSCR nor the ISCF but rather work in collaboration with these organisations	Secretariat/ICSCN	Ongoing

1.4. Membership Guidelines

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Draft membership guidelines (Membership guidelines to form part of the statutes)	Secretariat	June 2006
ICSCN to review membership guidelines and formally adopt	ICSCN	April 2007
Investigate membership contributions		Ongoing

1.5. Secretariat Duties

- The secretariat is responsible for the administrative functions of the ICSCN
- The current Secretariat position is located at the Australian Stem Cell Centre and is supported by funding to Feb 2008 from the Victorian State Government.
- Investigate the future role of the Secretariat position
- Investigate the alternating of the Secretariat position between member networks, potentially on a bi-annual rotation.

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Investigate ability of the ICSCN to rotate the Secretariat on a bi-annual basis between	Secretariat/ICSCN	Ongoing

member networks		
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1.6. Consortium Chairs

- Professor Stephen Livesey, Australian Stem Cell Centre and Professor Michael Rudnicki, Canadian Stem Cell are the current co-chairs of the ICSCN.
- Investigate the future roles of the chair/co-chairs
- Develop a process for election of chairs and length of term.

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Investigate ability of the ICSCN to elect the Chairs on a regular basis from member networks	Secretariat/ICS CN	Ongoing

1.7. Financial

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Investigate ongoing financial sustainability of the ICSCN beyond Victorian Government funding.	Secretariat	Ongoing

2. Membership

2.1. Membership Guidelines

- Implement membership guidelines

2.2. New Members

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Develop list of potential new member organisations within the various regions (Europe, North America, Asia-Pacific)	Secretariat	Ongoing
Formally invite new members to join consortium.	Secretariat/Co-chairs	Ongoing
Keep a watching brief on potential new member networks	Secretariat/ICS CN	Ongoing

2.3. Asia Pacific

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Identify Asia-Pacific nations with a strong interest in stem cell research	Secretariat	August 2006
Identify Asia-Pacific nations with established and those that are interested in setting up a network	Secretariat	Ongoing
Formally invite members to join consortium	ICSCN with co-chairs	Ongoing
Investigate the feasibility of hosting a meeting or function involving the new Asia-Pacific members in the region	Secretariat with ICSCN	July 2007

3. Communications

3.1. Website

- Initially the ASCC will host the ICSCN website
- The ICSCN website URL is: www.stemcellconsortium.org
- Each member to regularly survey the information on the website for accuracy and regularly provide new documents and information to upload.

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- The website will contain the following:
 - o Information and contact details of each of the consortium members.
 - o Relevant and useful documents from each network that can be shared with other networks. For example: audit documents, business funding cases, relevant country/state policy and legislation, regulatory guidelines used by each member country.
 - o Statistics that each member can use when preparing business cases, media releases etc. eg research documents that outline the economic impacts of stem cell R&D, statistics regarding numbers of stem cell researchers, clinical trials etc.
 - o The website will contain useful links to other websites, consortium members will be asked to forward useful links to the Secretariat for addition on a regular basis
 - o Other information as required
- The website will not duplicate the functions of the ISSCR website and will link to it where appropriate.

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Develop content for ICSCN component of ASCC website	Secretariat/ICS CN	Complete
Register new domain name for Consortium: www.stemcellconsortium.org	Secretariat	Complete
Link domain name to ICSCN page on ASCC website.	Secretariat	Complete
Secure funding to build independent ICSCN website	Canada SCN	Complete, Dec 2006.
Develop content for independent Consortium website.	Secretariat/Canada SCN/ICSCN	Ongoing
Launch ICSCN website	ICSCN	June 2007
Maintain and regularly update content on website	Secretariat/ICS CN	Ongoing

3.2. Corporate Brand

Activity	Responsibility	Date
In conjunction with the website, develop a brand identity for the consortium.	Secretariat	March 07

3.3. Email lists

Activity	Responsibility	Date
An email list of all consortium members will be available to all members so that discussion between members and across the group can occur freely.	Secretariat	Complete - to be updated regularly.

3.4. Newsletter

Activity	Responsibility	Date
The Secretariat will produce a newsletter for consortium members on a monthly basis.	Secretariat with ICSCN	On or close to the 15 th of each month.
First newsletter - Consortium Update August 2006	Secretariat with ICSCN	Complete
Second newsletter – September 2006	Secretariat with	Complete

	ICSCN	
Third newsletter – October 2006	Secretariat with ICSCN	Complete
Fourth newsletter – November 2006	Secretariat with ICSCN	Complete
Fifth Newsletter – December/January 2006/07	Secretariat with ICSCN	18 December 2006
Sixth Newsletter – February 2007	Secretariat with ICSCN	15 February 2007
Seventh Newsletter – March 2007	Secretariat with ICSCN	15 March 2007

3.5. Marketing

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Investigate a marketing strategy for the ICSCN incorporating the communications elements above.	Secretariat	Feb 07

4. Meetings

4.1. Annual meeting in conjunction with ISSCR

- The ICSCN is to hold one meeting annually in conjunction with the ISSCR Annual Meeting.
- The next ISSCR Annual meeting is to be held in Cairns, Australia in June 2007
- The Consortium has requested a full day long meeting before the Cairns Conference.

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Call for Agenda Items	Secretariat	1 May 2007
Send agenda and documents to ICSCN for review	Secretariat	1 June 2007
ICSCN meeting to be held in conjunction with ISSCR 2007 Annual Meeting, Cairns, Australia	ICSCN	16 June 2007

4.2. Asia Pacific Meeting

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Investigate the feasibility of hosting a regional meeting in addition to Cairns in 2007.	Secretariat	Ongoing

5. FAQ's Project

- 5.1. An outcome of the 2006 ICSCN meeting was the need for FAQ's for the public on the ability of stem cells to treat disease.
- The Stem Cell Network Canada and the Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia

6. Workshops

6.1. Workshop topics

- The ICSCN is to discuss and agree on topics for workshops to be held within the next 6-12 months
- At the 2005 meeting the following workshop topics were discussed:
 - *Cardiac, Hematopoietic and respiratory ES cell characterization propagation and DD AS cell isolation characterization PP and DD (Australian);*
 - *Multidisciplinary stem cell course (Canadian).*

- *Members were encouraged to consider an international dimension and inviting participants from other networks to attend workshops or activities they plan.*
- Are the 2005 topics still relevant? What new topics may be appropriate?
- At the 2006 meeting the following workshop topics were discussed:
 - *GMP (eg using the model set up by the North East of England)*
 - *IP management*
- The ICSCN is to agree on a location for the workshop and organising committee
- Draft agenda for workshop and distribute to ICSCN
- Follow up workshop with report and recommendations for the next event

6.2. Timelines

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Finalise topic for first workshop	ICSCN	
Assess members ability to attend workshop	Secretariat	
Host organisation to organise workshop	Host Organisation	

7. Education and Training

7.1. Education and Training Courses

- Many of the ICSCN member run education and training courses for young researchers eg. Stem Cell Network Canada Multidisciplinary Training Course, ASCC Human Embryonic Stem Cell Training Workshop
- It is proposed that ICSCN members make available positions (awarded on merit) at these courses for ICSCN member researchers free or at heavily discounted rates.
- Courses and ICSCN positions would be advertised via the ICSCN newsletter and website.
- Member researchers would benefit from networking with their peers and facilitating links between those members as their careers progress
- Training course attendees are to provide a brief written report for the next ICSCN newsletter following their participation

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Advertise training courses	ICSCN & Secretariat	Ongoing
Select attendees	Training course provider	
Attendee to provide a brief written report on their experience for the next ICSCN newsletter following the course	Course Attendee	One month following course.

8. Post doc fellowships, travel and exchange

8.1. Post-doc travel and exchange

- It is widely acknowledged that post-docs travel to gain more experience and further their careers. Whilst institutions generally encourage this, they also risk '*brain drain*' or skill loss.
- An opportunity therefore exists to facilitate post-doc travel or exchange within the consortium. This would provide benefits to both the post-doc and the member networks with ongoing communications
- Members interested in exchange programs could notify the secretariat who would help to facilitate the program between the individual networks.
- The 2005 meeting recommended the following regarding PDF exchange:
 - *Applicant:* PDF from a network/organization member of ICSCN.
 - *Host laboratory:* a network/organization member of the ICSCN.

- *Duration:* 3 years.
 - *Financing:* host pays: trainee stipend, one return airfare, and expenses for PDF to attend the host's AGMs.
 - *Competitive award:* host and applicant countries review the application.
 - *Reciprocal award*
 - *Purpose:* to promote international collaboration, to promote training excellence.
- Draft Exchange Guidelines for ICSCN to review.
- 8.2. Post-doctoral Fellowships
- Many of the Consortium members offer PDF's, it has been recommended that these are advertised across the consortium members
 - The website and email list could be used as a means of disseminating information to networks who would then distribute locally.

8.3. Timelines

Activity	Responsibility	Date
ICSCN member are able to advertise PDF's via the Consortium	ICSCN	Ongoing
Investigate best practice for scientific exchange	Secretariat	March 2007
Draft Exchange guidelines	Secretariat/ICS CN	April 2007
Implement best practice exchange program between ICSCN members	Secretariat	Aug 2007

9. Other Activities

9.1. Sharing Best Practice

- Sharing best practice was seen to be one of the most valuable exercises for consortium members.
- Areas for sharing may include: education materials, economic impact analysis, legislative processes, responses to patient questions, information on clinical trials
- The website would be one ideal format in which to share information.
- ICSCN members to make (non-confidential) materials available for access by all members

Appendix 2: ICSCN Statutes and Membership (DRAFT)

1. **Name, seat**

- 1.1. The name of the Society is the "International Consortium of Stem Cell Networks", abbreviated ICSCN (the Consortium).
- 1.2. The administrative seat of the ICSCN is the Australian Stem Cell Centre, Clayton, Victoria, Australia.

2. **Objectives of the society**

- 2.1. The ICSCN is a non-profit 'network of networks' which aims to accelerate the field of stem cell research, maximizing the opportunities to make stem cell therapy a reality for a broad range of debilitating diseases, by:
 - providing a forum for scientific and other discussion
 - providing a forum for exchange of best practice and development of international equivalents of national initiatives
 - organizing and promoting international workshops and symposia
 - encouraging the exchange of researchers between networks
 - organizing research projects and advanced courses with emphasis on the cooperation of investigators from different countries and different disciplines,
 - facilitating communications which may be of help in the coordination of research and translation between different countries,
 - encouraging the establishment of central web location for the exchange of information and promotion of the ICSCN
 - all other legitimate means which may help the Consortium to attain its objectives.
- 2.2. The ICSCN will work in cooperation with the International Society for Stem Cell Research and the International Stem Cell Forum and other organisations as appropriate.

3. **Membership**

- 3.1. At the discretion of the Consortium, membership of the ICSCN is open to national or state networks of stem cell science and regenerative medicine.
- 3.2. Active membership in the Consortium is defined as follows:
 - Regular attendance at Consortium workshops and meetings. Regular attendance is considered minimum one meeting per year.
 - Willingness to participate in the other activities of the Consortium, such as committees, making presentations at meetings, and inclusion in collaborations and activities with current consortium members.
- 3.3. Membership Eligibility
 - 3.3.1. Membership is open only to stem cell networks or organisations that consist of two or more members and exist to further the field of stem cell research in their particular state, region or country.
 - 3.3.2. Members must have an appropriate governance structure and ethics guidelines.
 - 3.3.3. Membership is not available to individuals or individual organisations that are not part of a network.
 - 3.3.4. Membership will be at the discretion of the Consortium
- 3.4. Membership Fees
 - 3.4.1. Currently consortium membership is free.
 - 3.4.2. Future funding of the ICSCN is to be determined by the consortium members.

4. **Voting**

- 4.1. Quorum will consist of 50% of the ICSCN members. Members may attend a meeting either in person or by phone/video link up.
- 4.2. Votes will be carried by a simple majority of the meeting.

5. Administration

- 5.1. The administrative seat of the ICSCN shall be established at the Australian Stem Cell Centre, Clayton, Australia until February 2008.
- 5.2. The Secretariat, currently located at the Australian Stem Cell Centre, will carry out the day to day operations of the ICSCN.
- 5.3. The duties of the Secretariat include: organisation and attendance of ICSCN meetings, maintenance of contact lists, establishment and maintenance of website and other duties as required.

6. Finance

- 6.1. The ICSCN is a non-profit organisation.
- 6.2. Currently all contributions to the consortium are 'in-kind'.
- 6.3. The Australian Stem Cell Centre has received up to AUD\$200,000 funding over a two year period to employ and support the Secretariat for the ICSCN.
- 6.4. Future support and funding of the ICSCN will be determined by the Consortium.

7. Meetings and Workshops

- 7.1. The ICSCN shall meet, as a minimum, annually in conjunction with the ISSCR annual meeting.
 - 7.1.1. Unless time and place of the session have been set at the preceding session of the ICSCN, they shall be decided by the co-chairs and Secretariat and communicated to the members where possible at least two months in advance.
- 7.2. The ICSCN members have the authority to:
 - Ratify the positions of co-chair
 - Ratify these statutes, policies and work plan of the ICSCN

8. Modification of the statutes

- 8.1. Amendments to the present Statutes may be proposed by a simple majority of ICSCN members.