

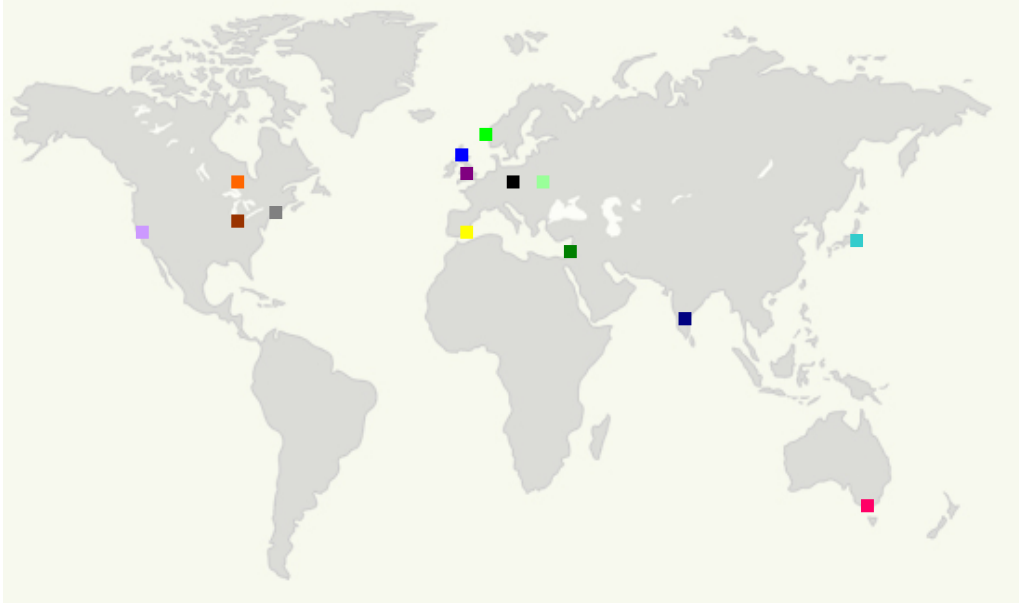


ICSCN

International Consortium
of Stem Cell Networks

Consortium Update March 2007

ICSCN Members March 2007



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|---|--|
| ■ Australian Stem Cell Centre | ■ Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia |
| ■ Bereshith - Israeli Consortium for cell and stem cell therapy | ■ Stem Cell Network, Canada |
| ■ California Institute for Regenerative Medicine | ■ North East England Stem Cell Institute |
| ■ International Society for Stem Cell Research | ■ Network in Regenerative Medicine Berlin |
| ■ RIKEN Centre for Developmental Biology, Japan | ■ Norwegian Centre for Stem Cell Research |
| ■ Scottish Stem Cell Network | ■ Stem Cell Research Forum of India |
| ■ Spanish Stem Cell Network | ■ New York Stem Cell Foundation |

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Stem Cell Network Canada – Hands-on Flow Cytometry Workshop, May 7-10, 2007



The Stem Cell Network is holding up to one spot for students of ICSCN members to attend their Multi-colour Analysis and Cell Sorting Workshop in Vancouver on May 7-10, 2007

The aim of this workshop is to enable the participants to 1) understand, trouble shoot and interpret flow cytometry data, and 2) perform flow cytometry on complex samples using 5 or more fluorochromes.

While course topics will be chosen based on the interests of the participants, the trainees may learn some or all of the following:

- Theory of flow cytometry, with particular focus on experimental design, chromofore selection and multicolor compensation
- Magnetic pre-enrichment of rare populations
- Instrument quality control
- Hands-on set up of multilaser flow cytometers, including Diva-Vantage, LSRII, Aria and Canto
- Hands-on compensation of complex samples
- Sorting and purity assessment
- Analysis using Flow Jo

Further workshop information and registration details can be found at http://www.stemcellnetwork.ca/training/thematicworkshops_flowcourse.php.

There will be no charge for the course, and the Stem Cell Network has generously offered to cover the costs of accommodation; but all other costs will be the responsibility of the participant.

Completed application forms must be sent with a CV and a letter of support from the applicant's supervisor.

Application deadline: April 6, 2007



Australian
StemCell
Centre

Australian Stem Cell Centre - Human Embryonic Stem Cell Training Course

One spot reserved for students/post-docs of ICSCN members

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.

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: 30 March 2007

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ICSCN Logo

Finally, as of this month the ICSCN has its own logo. All members are encouraged to use the logo and place on their own websites with a link back to the Consortium webpage (www.stemcellconsortium.org). The logo in its various formats will be emailed to each member.

ICSCN in the Media

The Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) is an independent, non-government organisation dedicated to the promotion in Australia of scientific and engineering knowledge to practical purposes. ATSE Focus is the monthly publication of the Academy and in March 2007 has produced a special edition on stem cells which features an article by Professor Stephen Livesey on the ICSCN. The article, [The Global Stem Cell Village](#), and the full publication can be found on the [ATSE](#) website.

North East England Stem Cell Network Launches New Website



NESCI has launched its new website including detailed information on their research.

Further details are available from Martin Cox, m.b.cox@ncl.ac.uk; (0044) + 191 241 8698.

<http://www.nesci.ac.uk/>

CIRM Awards HESC Grants

CIRM Awards \$120 million of Grants to Support Stem Cell Research in California

The CIRM has been very busy in the month since the last ICSCN newsletter. On 16 February 2007, more than two years since the Californian public approved Proposition 71, the CIRM awarded 72 grants totaling approximately US\$45million. The Scientific Excellence through Exploration and Development (SEED) Grants were intended to bring new ideas and new investigators into the field of human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research, and offer an opportunity for investigators to carry out studies that may yield preliminary data or proof-of-principle results that could then be extended to full scale investigations.

In addition, on 16 March 2007, the CIRM has authorised a further US\$75 million in funds for established scientists across twelve non-profit and academic institutions. The Comprehensive Grants, as they are known, support mature ongoing studies on human embryonic stem cells by accomplished scientists in the field.

Full details on the recipients and the grant programs can be found on the CIRM website: www.cirm.ca.gov.

Global Regulation of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Oocyte Donation

Table of Global Regulations and Legislation

The ICSCN has compiled for its members a table of global regulations, policies and organisations regarding human embryonic stem cell research. All members are free to use this table for their own purposes which can be found as a PDF on the [Consortium webpage](#).

ICSCN Meeting, Cairns 2007

ICSCN meeting scheduled for Saturday, 16 June 2007

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.

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ICSCN PDF Workshop in Conjunction with ICSCN Meeting, Cairns 2007

Saturday, 16 June 2007

The Canadian SCN and ASCC are keen to initiate a workshop for early career PDF's held in conjunction with the 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 most groups will be supporting at least a couple of PDFs to attend ISSCR, this could create some added value for all of us. The Canadian SCN would be happy to organize the attendance and agenda and work with the Australian Stem Cell Centre to do so.

Please contact: [Drew Lyall](#), Executive Director, Stem Cell Network, 613-562-5384,

Canadian Stem Cell Network ICSCN Activities



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.

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,

International News and Events



ISSCR Annual Meeting

Help your local stem cell researchers attend the 5th ISSCR Annual Meeting in Cairns, Australia

With an unprecedented number of travel award requests submitted to the ISSCR for their 5th Annual Meeting in Cairns, Australia, the society has asked that various stem cell research networks from around the globe help fund their local researchers in making it to the meeting. The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and Charité in Berlin, Germany, have stepped up to the plate and pledged their support to ensure that junior investigators in their area are represented at the prestigious ISSCR meeting. The New York Stem Cell Foundation has also signed on as a platinum level supporter for the meeting for the second year in a row, with a large portion of their generous support going toward travel awards for qualified junior investigators. If you would like to be part of the growing number of organizations helping to send local researchers to the premiere scientific meeting on stem cell science, contact the ISSCR at isscr@isscr.org today.

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UK Approves Egg Donation for Research

HFEA to allow egg donation for research

On 21 February 2007 the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) agreed to allow women to be able to donate their eggs to research projects, provided that there are strong safeguards in place to ensure the women are properly informed of the risks of the procedure and are properly protected from coercion.

HFEA considered all of the information on donating eggs for research, including risks to women and the outcomes of a public consultation, and decided that women will be allowed to donate their eggs to research, both as an altruistic donor or in conjunction with their own IVF treatment. It concluded that the medical risks for donating for research are no higher than for treatment, and that it is a woman's choice of how her donated eggs should be used.

Women who go through the medical procedure to harvest the eggs from their ovaries will be paid £250 plus travel expenses, the existing maximum compensation for any egg or sperm donor. Anyone agreeing to donate will have to show that they are acting for altruistic reasons, for example because they have a close relative suffering with one of the conditions scientists are trying to develop new treatments for with the aid of human eggs.

Visit www.hfea.gov.uk

India Releases new Guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Therapy

New Guidelines to govern stem cell research across India

The Indian Council of Medical Research together with the Indian Department of Biotechnology has released guidelines to govern stem cell research across India. The new guidelines, available on the [ICMR website](#), categorises the research into three areas:



- Permissible, including study of established cell lines and establishment of new cell lines from excess IVF embryos with donor consent;
- Restricted, including SCNT and studies on chimeras; and
- Prohibited, including human germ line genetic engineering and reproductive cloning.

Conferences

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](#).

BIO2007

May 6-9, 2007

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Boston, MA USA

[BIO2007](#) features a regenerative medicine track focussing on stem cells. One session, *Stem Cells: Importance to Research and to Treatments* is being chaired by ICSCN co-chair Professor Stephen Livesey and features Bob Klein, Chair, ICOC, CIRM. The session is being held on 8/05/2007 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

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

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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.

September 2007

Royan International Twin Congress

3rd Royan International Congress on Stem Cells Biotechnology

8th Congress on Reproductive Biomedicine

Sept. 5-7, 2007

Tehran, Iran

Abstract deadline: April 10, 2007

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 [NYSCF](#) website.

Articles and Links of Interest

Legislation and Regulation

- EuroStemCell Regulations in European Union member states, at: http://www.eurostemcell.org/Documents/Outreach/stemcell_hesc_regulations_2007FEB.pdf
- ISSCR International Legislation on Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research, at: <http://www.isscr.org/public/regions/index.cfm>
- StemGen World Map, at: <http://www.stemgen.org/mapworld.cfm>
- Stem Cells World Map, at: <http://www.mbbnet.umn.edu/scmap.html>

Policy and Ethics

- 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.

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- **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 '[Hinxtan 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 Webpage

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.

Next Month

Please send articles, activities, conferences, recruitment opportunities and other items of interest for next month's newsletter by April 11, 2007.

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