



**Welcome to the ICSCN update for March 2010.**

This newsletter is a source of information and an opportunity to promote network activities for all ICSCN members and their associated organisations, scientists and students. All members are encouraged to distribute this newsletter to their wider groups, place a link on their websites and [contribute news](#) and updates for future newsletters and the website.

**Contents for March 2010**

**ICSCN Members**

- [Australian Stem Cell Centre](#)
- [Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research](#)
- [East of England Stem Cell Network](#)
- [International Society for Stem Cell Research](#)
- [International Stem Cell Forum](#)
- [Irish Stem Cell Foundation](#)
- [Israel Stem Cell Society](#)
- [New South Wales Stem Cell Network](#)
- [New York Stem Cell Foundation](#)
- [North East England Stem Cell Institute](#)
- [Regenerative Medicine Initiative Germany - RMIG](#)
- [California Institute for Regenerative Medicine](#)
- [RIKEN Centre for Developmental Biology](#)
- [Scottish Stem Cell Network](#)
- [Spanish Stem Cell Bank](#)
- [Stem Cell Network Asia Pacific](#)
- [Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia](#)
- [Stem Cell Network, Canada](#)
- [UK National Stem Cell Network](#)

ICSCN at ISSCR 2010, San Francisco ..... 1

Welcome New Member ..... 1

Stem Cell Awareness Day ..... 2

Member News ..... 2

ISSCR News ..... 4

International News and Events ..... 5

ICSCN Administration News ..... 5

Next Newsletter ..... 5

**ICSCN at ISSCR 2010, San Francisco**

**ICSCN Meeting**

As with last year, the ICSCN will hold a working group meeting of limited numbers for planning purposes and a wider ICSCN networking meeting. The working group meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 June from 2.30pm to 5.30pm with one representative from each network invited. The wider ICSCN networking meeting will be held during lunch on Thursday 17 June and is open to representatives from all ICSCN networks with each invited to give a short five minute talk on their latest developments and achievements.

**2010 Post-Doc Symposium 15-16 June 2010**

Following last years success, planning for the 2010 Post-doc symposium is underway and members should be thinking about how they will select their delegates for the meeting. Please note that the ICSCN are planning a parallel session for junior researchers studying ethical legal and social issues to be held on 15 June only.

Networks will receive a separate email shortly asking them to nominate participants in both symposia.

**Welcome New Member**

**Irish Stem Cell Foundation**

The ICSCN welcomes its newest member the [Irish Stem Cell Foundation](#) an independent, non-profit organisation composed of doctors, scientists, patient advocates, business people, policy developers, teachers and students established in October 2009 to:

- accelerate stem cell research to cure the major illnesses of our generation.
- provide a focus on education in all areas of stem cell research and therapy.
- establish a forum to promote, foster and exchange accurate information on the progress of stem cell research to all interested parties.

The foundation also seeks to have appropriate legislation and improve current governance to make Irish medical research more competitive internationally and to educate and thus reduce risk to the Irish patient.



## Stem Cell Awareness Day

### *Stem Cell Awareness Day, 6 October 2010*

Wednesday, October 6, 2010 marks Stem Cell Awareness Day which brings together organisations and individuals around the world working to ensure that we realise the benefits of one of the most promising fields of science in our time. The day is a unique global opportunity to foster greater understanding about stem cell research and the range of potential applications for disease and injury.

For the millions of people around the world who suffer from incurable diseases and injury, Stem Cell Awareness Day is a day to celebrate the scientific advances made to-date and be hopeful of what is yet to come. Research and academic institutions and educators are encouraged to participate by hosting activities and events in their community. In particular, we encourage efforts to get stem cell researchers into high school classrooms that day. For a list of Stem Cell Awareness Day activities in 2009, please visit [www.stemcellday.com](http://www.stemcellday.com).

For information about Stem Cell Awareness Day, contact [stemcellday@circm.ca.gov](mailto:stemcellday@circm.ca.gov).

Stem Cell Awareness Day is a public education initiative linking scientists, clinicians, patients and the general public around the world. [www.stemcellday.com](http://www.stemcellday.com).

## Member News

### *Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia*

#### **International Meeting**

The 6th International Meeting of the Stem Cell Network NRW will take place from the 5th to the 6th of April, 2011. The location of the conference will be Essen, named European City of Culture next year, and very accessible due to its central location. Further information about the program will be available soon on our website. We ask that you please make a note of the date in your calendar today, and look forward to many visitors to Germany's Ruhr Area.

<http://www.stemcells.nrw.de>

### *Regenerative Medicine Initiative Germany - RMIG*

#### **6<sup>th</sup> hESCreg Newsletter**

The 6<sup>th</sup> hESCReg Newsletter is now available [online](#) containing information on what's new in the hESCReg database, recent developments in stem cell research and the latest regulatory developments.

**hESCreg**

#### **Berlin-Brandenburg School for Regenerative Therapies International Summer School on Innovative Approaches in Regenerative Medicine**

The next International Summer School on Innovative Approaches will take place from **14 to 28 August 2010**. 15 Travel grants are available for international students and 3 travel grants for women studying material and engineering sciences. The deadline for application will be the **15 May 2010**. To find out more please see <http://www.bsrt-summerschule.de/>



### *New York Stem Cell Foundation*

#### **Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Workshop**

Date: March 8 –March 12, 2010

Location: The New York Stem Cell Foundation Laboratory, New York, NY

Contact: [training@nyscf.org](mailto:training@nyscf.org)

This 5-day workshop provides an opportunity to work with leading stem cell experts and gain experience and training in human pluripotent stem cell derivation, culture and characterization, including embryonic stem (ES) cells and induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells.

#### **The New York Stem Cell Foundation's Fifth Translational Stem Cell Research Conference**

Date: October 12 to 13, 2010

Location: The Rockefeller University, New York, NY

Confirmed Speakers Include (As of February 23, 2010): Kenneth R. Chien, MD, PhD; John E. Dick, PhD; Thomas Graf, PhD; Matthias Hebrok, PhD; Tom Jessell, PhD; Douglas A. Melton, PhD; Christine Mummery, PhD; Thomas A. Rando, MD, PhD; Camillo Ricordi, MD; Hongjun Song, PhD; Sally Temple, PhD; Fiona Watt, DPhil and Marius Wernig, MD

[www.nyscf.org](http://www.nyscf.org)

### *Stem Cell Network, Canada*

#### **iPS Cells: Mapping The Policy Issues**

Since their discovery in 2007, there has been an explosion of research on iPS cells which have been hailed as the solution to the controversial ethical questions that have plagued embryonic stem cell science for the past decade. But is it the solution? Or have iPS cells simply added a new dimension to the legal, social and ethical debates that are an important and necessary part of stem cell advances? This was the central question discussed by an international group of leading scientists, bioethicists and legal scholars who attended a workshop organised by the Canadian Stem Cell Network in Barcelona during the 2009 annual ISSCR meeting.

[iPS Cells: Mapping the Policy Issues](#). Cell, [Volume 139, Issue 6](#), 1032-1037, 11 December 2009

### *Australia*

#### **Australian Stem Cell Centre Publishes Patient Information Handbook**

In response to increasing concerns surrounding unregulated and unproven stem cell therapies offered to patients overseas, the Australian Stem Cell Centre has published a Patient Handbook. The Handbook contains detailed information for Australian patients on the current status of stem cell science, the local regulatory environment and information on clinical trials. The Handbook was developed to assist the ASCC respond to increasing requests for information about unproven stem cell therapies from patients and the media.

[Visit the ASCC's Patients page and download the handbook.](#)

Here you can also keep up to date with stem cell news in Australia by subscribing to the Centre's [Newsletter](#).

#### **ASSCR Third Annual Meeting**

The [Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research \(ASSCR\)](#) is holding its third annual meeting from 15 November 2010 in conjunction with the Australian Health and Medical Research Congress. The Plenary Speaker is Professor Brigid Hogan, Duke University, USA. Professor Hogan studies how the lung organ forms during embryo development and the cells in adult lung that may be involved in repair.



California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

Education Portal

CIRM has launched an online stem cell curriculum for high school students. The extensive set of course materials and activity resources will help high school and other educators prepare the youth of California to join the fast-growing biotech economy and help that sector find the workers its leaders say are already in short supply. The portal can be found at [http://www.cirm.ca.gov/stem\\_cell\\_education\\_portal](http://www.cirm.ca.gov/stem_cell_education_portal).

UK National Stem Cell Network

UKNSCN Third Annual Science Meeting 2010

You are reminded that next year's UKNSCN Annual Scientific Meeting will take place from 12-14 July 2010 at the University of Nottingham's East Midlands Conference Centre (EMCC). The Dame Anne McLaren Memorial Lecturer for next year will be Fiona Watt from Cancer Research UK in Cambridge. UKNSCN is delighted to announce that Professor Sir John Gurdon (Cambridge) - recent recipient of the Lasker Prize - has agreed to deliver the conference dinner speech at the event. See the [2010 Conference Homepage](#) for more information.

Stem Cell Patent Digests

The UKNSCN provides the community with regular (two-monthly) digests of both published and granted patents in the stem cell field. The UKNSCN produces these digests in partnership with the UK's Intellectual Property Office (IPO), who include their search strategy as an annex to each digest.

The [Patent Digests](#) are freely available for download.

ISSCR Annual Meeting

June 16-19, 2010

Moscone West, San Francisco, CA USA

Find the topics, perspectives and tools you need to advance your research at the ISSCR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, June 16-19, 2010 in San Francisco, CA USA. Participate in 8 plenary sessions, 15 concurrent session tracks, dedicated Junior Investigator events and ample time to network with colleagues from around the globe.



Plan to make the most of your trip – arrive early for pre-meeting events including:

- **ISSCR/CIRM/ISCT Workshop: Stem Cell Therapies in Clinical Trials – Best Practices and the Need for Harmonization** on Tuesday, June 15. This day-long workshop examines the issues involved in harmonizing regulatory features internationally. Space is limited. Pre-registration is required and costs \$100 per registration and is only available online.
- **Ethical Issues in IPS Research** workshop on Wednesday, June 16. Explore the many emerging ethical issues in iPS cell research. No pre-registration required. This complimentary session is open to all registered meeting attendees.
- **Industry Wednesday Symposia** on Wednesday, June 16. Get the industry perspective on important issues in stem cell science. Complimentary half-day sessions from BD Biosciences, Thermo Scientific and Invitrogen part of life tech/Applied BioSystems part of life tech will run concurrently and are open to all registered meeting attendees.

To register online or for more information about the ISSCR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and pre-meeting events, visit the [ISSCR Web site](#).

Important deadlines

Early registration discount ends:	March 30, 2010
Headquarters hotel reservation deadline:	May 14, 2010
Online registration ends:	May 20, 2010



## **International News and Events**

### ***World Stem Cell Summit, 4-6 October 2010***

2010 marks the 3rd annual World Stem Cell Summit being held in Detroit, Michigan, USA. This year's diverse 3-day agenda will include morning keynotes and plenary discussions, roundtable lunch conversations with experts, a focused science, industry and society track as well as intimate workshops intended to meet the needs of all World Stem Cell Summit attendees. [www.worldstemcellsummit.com](http://www.worldstemcellsummit.com)

## **ICSCN Administration News**

### ***ICSCN Website***

If members would like to share resources, information or news, or advertise lab positions, training awards or other opportunities on the ICSCN website, please send the details to one of the members of the Joint Secretariat ([Rebecca Skinner](#), [Drew Lyall](#), [Ira Herrmann](#), [Marilyn Robertson](#)).

### ***ICSCN Logo and Brand***

All ICSCN members are encouraged to use the ICSCN logo and brand events ICSCN events where appropriate. If you require a copy of the logo please email the [Secretariat](#). Members are also encouraged to put the logo on their own websites and place links to the ICSCN site and to the newsletters.

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## **Next Newsletter**

The next newsletter is due mid May 2010. Please email content and articles to the Secretariat by 30 April 2010.