



ICSCn

International Consortium
of Stem Cell Networks

Consortium Update May 2007



■ [Australian Stem Cell Centre](#)

■ [Bereshith - Israeli Consortium for cell and stem cell therapy](#)

■ [California Institute for Regenerative Medicine](#)

■ [International Society for Stem Cell Research](#)

■ [RIKEN Centre for Developmental Biology, Japan](#)

■ [Scottish Stem Cell Network](#)

■ [Spanish Stem Cell Network](#)

■ [Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia](#)

■ [Stem Cell Network, Canada](#)

■ [North East England Stem Cell Institute](#)

■ [Network in Regenerative Medicine Berlin](#)

■ [Norwegian Centre for Stem Cell Research](#)

■ [Stem Cell Research Forum of India](#)

■ [New York Stem Cell Foundation](#)

Contents

ICSCN MEETING, CAIRNS 2007	3
STEM CELL NETWORK NORTH RHINE WESTPHALIA TURNS FIVE	3
CIRM FUNDING CLEARED BY HIGH COURT	3
DONATION OF OOCYTES FOR RESEARCH IN ISRAEL.....	4
ICSCN POSTER PRESENTATION AT BIO2007.....	4
ISSCR ANNUAL MEETING	4
ICSCN LOGO.....	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
ICSCN IN THE MEDIA	5
CANADIAN STEM CELL NETWORK ICSCN ACTIVITIES	5
INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND EVENTS.....	5
CONFERENCES	5
ARTICLES AND LINKS OF INTEREST.....	6
ICSCN WEBPAGE.....	7
NEXT MONTH.....	7

ICSCN Meeting, Cairns 2007

ICSCN meeting scheduled for Saturday, 16 June 2007

The ICSCN meeting is scheduled from 9.30am on Saturday 16 June 2007 at the Shangri-la hotel, Cairns. In addition to this newsletter all members have been sent a draft agenda. Please provide comment and feedback on this agenda by Thursday 31 May. In addition, please provide the names of your network members who will be attending the meeting.

Meeting Presentations

As part of the meeting each network is to give a 10 minute overview of their highlights and areas of interest over the past year and any forthcoming events of note. These presentations can be emailed to Rebecca Skinner prior to the meeting.

ICSCN Cocktail Function

Following the ICSCN meeting on 16 June the ASCC is hosting an ICSCN cocktail function at the Shangri La hotel from 4pm to 6pm. All meeting attendees along with other members of their networks present in Cairns are invited to attend the cocktail function. Please provide names and email addresses of people you would like to invite to [Rebecca Skinner](mailto:Rebecca.Skinner@scn.org) by 31 May 2007.

Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia turns Five

Some facts on the Network:

- founded April 15, 2002 with great support by the local government
- still unique network in Germany
- more than 35 biomedical institutes and clinics involved
- networks bundles biomedical, ethical, legal and socio-scientific expertise
- network bears two columns: one biomedical and one bioethical working group
- experts from state-, federal- and European councils working in the bioethical working group
- many of the members have been active in shaping the framework for stem cell research in Germany (first stem cell law became effective in 2003 – one year later)
- Stem Cell Network NRW is looking back on 3 international meetings (with up to 600 participants), several plenary sessions regarding bioethical and legal aspects of sc research, public forum and several publications as the 'Dossier' (a compendium of legal frameworks concerning sc research from most of the countries in the world).



For more information visit www.stammzellen.nrw.de

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

CIRM Funding Cleared by High Court



The California Supreme Court, on 16 May 2007, declined to hear an appeal in the litigation challenging the constitutionality of Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act. The Court's decision effectively ends the lawsuits that have held up bond funding for the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), the state agency created to manage the stem cell project

The decision permits the state agency to move into the next round of funding which will include up to \$48.5 million in shared laboratories grants and loans and \$222 million for major facilities at California's universities, research hospitals, medical schools, and research institutes.

Under California law, no additional litigation can further delay the issuance of general obligation bonds, worth \$3 billion over ten years, authorized by Proposition 71.

www.stemcellconsortium.org

Donation of Oocytes for Research in Israel

As from 9 May 2007 the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) has started the process of approving egg donation for various purposes including research. The legal procedure is comprised of three votes, the first of which has been accomplished. Currently, oocyte donation for research is banned in Israel but somatic cell nuclear transfer is allowed under current regulation but not possible due to the oocyte donation ban.

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

ICSCN Poster Presentation at BIO2007

The ASCC on behalf of the ICSCN submitted an abstract for the poster session at BIO2007 in Boston. The abstract was selected and the poster presented during one of the Innovation Corridor Sessions. The poster can be viewed on the [ICSCN website](#).

ISSCR Annual Meeting



Registration Deadline June 8

Online registration closes June 8. [Register today](#) to enjoy outstanding science in the tropical setting of Cairns, Queensland, Australia. After June 8, you may register onsite at the Cairns Convention Centre beginning Sunday, June 17.

Nearly 1,700 stem cell professionals have already registered to attend. Join them for:

- Six plenary and 20 concurrent educational sessions
- 130 speakers from around the globe, including Keynote Speaker David de Kretser, AC, governor of Victoria, Australia
- 1,100 posters presented in four sessions
- Numerous opportunities to network and socialize
- 65 vendors and 14 commercial tutorials

For more information, visit the [ISSCR Web site](#).

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.



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,

Conferences

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

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

More information at: <http://www.royaninstitute.org/Congress/index.htm>

October 2007

The Stem Cell Summit Genetics Policy Institute- Harvard Stem Cell Institute Burrill Life Sciences Media Group October 2-3, 2007

Hynes Convention Center
Boston, Massachusetts

The keystone gathering of patient advocates, policy makers, researchers, ethicists, legal experts, biotechnology leaders, philanthropists and clinicians seeking to advance stem cell research around the world. More information at: <http://www.burrillandco.com/bio/stemcellsummit>

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](http://www.eurostemcell.org) 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](http://www.nyscf.org) website.

Articles and Links of Interest

Legislation and Regulation

- **Global Regulation of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Oocyte Donation - Table of Global Regulations and Legislation, Compiled by the ICSCN**
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](http://www.icscn.org).
- 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

- Genetics Policy Institute, a *nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing a positive legal framework to advance stem cell research*, at www.genpol.org
- 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](http://www.sciencemag.org) 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 '[Hinxtan Group](#)': An International Consortium on Stem Cells, Ethics and Law.

Public Outreach Tools

- **EuroStemCell** has add a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page to its website. The page contains information for patients on various diseases and links to clinical trial information as well as resources for students and general stem cell information.
- 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

As the ICSCN meeting is scheduled for 16 June, the next newsletter is not scheduled until 16 July 2007.

www.stemcellconsortium.org