



Welcome to the ICSCN update for May 2009.

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 May 2009

ICSCN Members

- Australian Stem Cell Centre
- Bereshith – Israeli Consortium for Cell and Stem Cell Therapy
- East of England Stem Cell Network
- International Society for Stem Cell Research
- International Stem Cell Forum
- Israel Stem Cell Society
- New South Wales Stem Cell Network
- New York Stem Cell Foundation
- North East England Stem Cell Institute
- Norwegian Centre for Stem Cell Research
- 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 2009, Barcelona 1
 Member News..... 2
 International News and Events..... 4
 ISSCR News 4
 ICSCN Administration News..... 5
 Articles and Links of Interest 5
 Next Newsletter 6

ICSCN at ISSCR 2009, Barcelona

ICSCN Meeting

The next ICSCN meeting is to be held in Barcelona in 2009 in concurrence with the ISSCR 7th Annual Meeting. Following feedback from previous meetings, the meeting has been separated into two sessions:

Main Session, July 9, 1-3pm, Hotel Diagonal Zero, Barcelona

The main session will be a relatively informal lunch chaired by Dr Oliver Brustle of the Stem Cell Network, North Rhine Westphalia. The session will comprise a briefing from the Secretariat on past and proposed activities of the ICSCN plus an opportunity for each member Network to share a highlight from their own network during the previous 12 months. In addition, feel free to bring and share any material that may be of interest to your colleagues.

Planning Session, July 8, 9am-12noon, Hotel Diagonal Zero, Barcelona

The purpose of this meeting is to undertake some detailed planning for the upcoming year and we ask that each member nominate ONE representative to participate in the meeting. The session will largely focus on potential join workshop/training events and opportunities for collaborative/shared outreach.

Please email Rebecca Skinner (Rebecca.skinner@stemcellcentre.edu) as soon as possible to confirm who will be coming to the lunch event on July 9th and who your delegate will be at the planning meeting on July 8th.

ICSCN Post-Doc Symposium

The ICSCN will host its first ICSCN Post-Doc Symposium in Barcelona on July 7 and the morning of July 8, 2009 immediately prior to ISSCR. Places at the Symposium are now extremely limited. For more information please contact Drew Lyall (dlyall@stemcellnetwork.ca) at the Stem Cell Network Canada.

Member News

Scottish Stem Cell Network

Funding boost for regenerative medicine in Scotland

Scottish Regenerative Medicine received a multi-million funding boost in April 2009, providing a major endorsement of our efforts to find new treatments for degenerative diseases.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) announced an offer of a £500,000 grant for the Scottish Stem Cell Network (SSCN) to provide support for individual enterprises and research centres that will build on previous and continued funding from Scottish Enterprise.

Dr Marilyn Robertson, Executive Director of the SSCN said "The grant is a major boost for SSCN, offering the possibility of greater collaboration, knowledge exchange and sharing of expertise. It will open up further access for SMEs to the excellent research and technology base in Scotland and we expect this to have a major impact on our ability to deliver clinical and commercially viable products and therapies to patients in the near future".

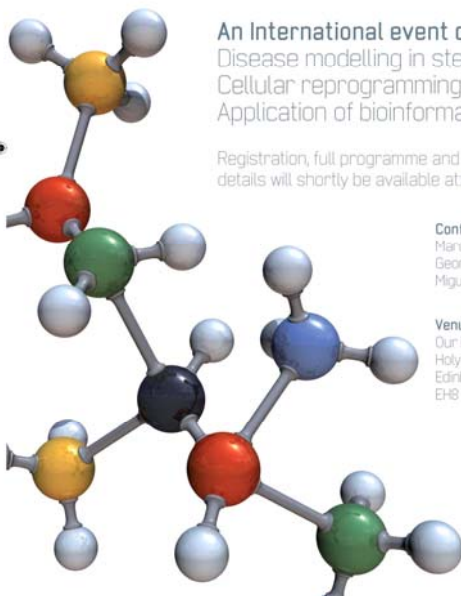
ERDF also announced a £1.2 million offer of funding to the Edinburgh-based Roslin Stem Cell



An ICSCN event, hosted by SSCN

Stem Cells and Bioinformatics

21&22:09:2009



An International event covering:
Disease modelling in stem cells
Cellular reprogramming
Application of bioinformatics

Registration, full programme and abstract submission details will shortly be available at: www.sscn.co.uk

Confirmed speakers:
Marcos J. Arauzo-Bravo, Germany
Georg Fuellen, Boston USA
Miguel Andrade, Germany

Venue:
Our Dynamic Earth
Holyrood Rd
Edinburgh
EH8 8AS

SSCN scottish stem cell network

Partnership – a collaboration between the Roslin Foundation and Roslin Cells Ltd to provide commercialisation capacity for those in the life sciences community looking to apply their existing technologies to stem cells. The Partnership will expand Roslin Cells' capacity to produce GMP grade stem cell lines and combine it, with the Foundation's laboratory resources, to create a one-stop-shop for companies wishing to undertake proof of concept stage research, trading as "Roslin Cellab".

Aidan Courtney, COO of Roslin Cells, said "Our vision is to make Scotland the best place in the world to undertake early stage commercial research projects and Roslin Cellab is a key step in this process. We have the cell lines, the staff and the physical resources to enable companies to commence small research projects with the minimum of set up cost and time. It's a terrific fit with the SSCN which provides the linkages between companies and with the excellent research base."

These important and significant awards will strengthen the sector and sustain growth in the translational field in Scotland.

Also announced in April was a £3 million research project, funded by the Wellcome Trust, to generate red blood cells from human embryonic stem cells. The Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, together with Roslin Cells Ltd and the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) will collaborate with NHS Blood and Transplant and the Irish Blood Transfusion Service in this study. It will use clinical grade human ES cells, produced by Roslin Cells, to produce type O negative blood cells, which in theory can be used for almost any patient in need of blood. The hope is to supplement the supply of blood from donors and fulfil the unmet demand for blood within the UK and around the world.

Dr Ted Bianco, the Wellcome Trust's Director of Technology Transfer, said "It is an exciting and ground-breaking approach that the team led by Prof Marc Turner of the SNBTS have come up with. The time has come to apply modern biology to a procedure that has been with us for the best part of 200 years"

Germany Update

Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia Featured in Article in The Scientist

'COOLING THE GERMAN DISCUSSION - A unique network that includes philosophers, lawyers and theologians as well as scientists is helping stem cell research in North Rhine-Westphalia to proceed in the face of stiff opposition.' The article can be read online [here](#).

UK-German Regenerative Medicine Workshop & Poster Exhibition

02. – 03. March 2009, British Embassy, Berlin
This workshop focussed on a state of the art in the latest research on stem cells, tissue engineering (including biomaterials) and regenerative medicine in Germany and the UK, identification for collaboration as well as funding schemes within Germany, the UK and the EU Framework Programme.

Further information: <http://bcrt.charite.de/>

2nd Combined Meeting 2009 at REBIRTH 20-25 November 2009, Hannover

European Society of Gene and Cell Therapy (ESGCT)

German Society of Gene Therapy (DG-GT)

German Society for Stem Cell Research (GSZ)

International Society of Cell Therapy (ISCT)

Four societies in the fields of gene therapy, cell therapy, stem cell biology and regenerative sciences will be joining forces with the REBIRTH Cluster of Excellence to host a unique international meeting on gene and cell therapy with a focus on regeneration. Please mark your calendars for this important event.

Further information can be obtained at:
www.stem-cell-research.de

World Conference on Regenerative Medicine in Leipzig

The Translational Centre for Regenerative Medicine (TRM) Leipzig, member of RMIG, cordially invites to the World Conference on Regenerative Medicine, from 29 to 31 October 2009 in Leipzig, Germany. The meeting is organized by TRM Leipzig and the Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapies and Immunology (IZI). It will be the place for exchange and contact of the international regenerative medicine community. Over 1.000 participants from research, clinics and industry are expected. Topics of the conference will be stem cells, tissue engineering, immunology and signaling, technology development, and regulatory affairs. Abstracts accepted until 15 July 09.

Further Information: www.wcrm-leipzig.com

New York Stem Cell Foundation

The NYSCF has prepared a response to the draft NIH stem cell guidelines. Read their response [here](#).

UK National Stem Cell Network

UKNSCN Re-Structuring and Appointment Of New Scientific Advisory Committee

Following the short presentations to the community at the UKNSCN's second annual science meeting in Oxford, the Network's sponsors are now organising a first meeting of the new UKNSCN Management Board for next month, and starting the appointments process for the new (expanded) Scientific Advisory Committee. The Committee will comprise around 20 members appointed against an expertise template drawn up by the sponsors, and the basic template will be published by the sponsors very shortly. In addition, the sponsors have re-appointed the Network's Coordinator as Executive Director of the UKNSCN who will report to the Management Board. The Management Board will include the new chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee, once he/she has been appointed.

The full UKNSCN review report (in which the recommendations for re-structuring appear) remains available for downloading from the UKNSCN website at the following link: [UKNSCN Review Report \(59 pages\)](#)

Stem Cell Network, Canada

The Stem Cell Network has launched a new website, check it out at www.stemcellnetwork.ca

Australia

ASSCR Second Annual Meeting

The Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research (ASSCR) Sunday 22nd to Tuesday 24th November 2009 The meeting themes include:

- Regulation of pluripotency, including embryonic stem and iPS cells
- Embryonic stem cell differentiation
- Stem cell regulation
- Cancer stem cells
- Mesenchymal stem cells; origins, biology, identification and applications
- Organ specific stem cells

For more information about the ASSCR, please visit the website at www.asscr.org, or email at info@asscr.org.

ASCC Pluripotent Cell Training Course

The ASCC offers laboratory-based training courses to investigators wanting to learn how to isolate, maintain, propagate, manipulate, differentiate and analyse embryonic and adult stem cells. The next human embryonic stem cell training workshop will be held in Melbourne (4 full days) June 1 - 4, 2009. Visit the ASCC [website](#) for more information.

International News and Events

World Stem Cell Summit, 2009

21-23 September 2009, Baltimore, Maryland.

Presented by the Genetics Policy Institute (GPI), the 2009 Summit is hosted by Johns Hopkins University, the University System of Maryland, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, Maryland Technology and Development Corporation and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

The World Stem Cell Summit brings together the stem cell universe to chart the future of regenerative medicine. [Learn More.](#)

To view the webcast of the 2008 summit, click [here](#) or go to www.worldstemcellsummit.com

Beyond the Embryo: Transnational, Transdisciplinary and Translational Perspectives on Stem Cell Research

14-15 November 2009, Switzerland

This workshop is co-sponsored by the Brocher Foundation, the Stem Cell Network of Canada and the International Regulome Consortium. The main goal of the workshop is to explore emerging scientific and ELSI challenges resulting from advances in stem cell research and related therapies. The workshop aims, from a multidisciplinary and international perspective, to critically examine new developments and to provide a unique picture of the future possible international research and regulatory challenges. Click [here](#) for more information.

List of Core Facilities and Stem Cell Registries

The [Niche at Nature](#) has recently published a list of online stem cell registries and tools.

ISSCR News

ISSCR 7th Annual Meeting

July 8-11, 2009

Centre Convencions Internacional Barcelona, Spain

Co-sponsored by the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) and the Center of Regenerative Medicine in Barcelona (CMRB)



Call for Late-Breaking Research Abstracts

The ISSCR Program Committee, recognizing the speed at which the science is advancing, is accepting late-breaking research abstracts for poster consideration at the ISSCR 7th Annual Meeting. Late-breaking research abstract submission closes, May 27. Visit the ISSCR Web site, www.isscr.org, for more information.

Make your plans now. Arrive early for these pre-meeting opportunities:

ISSCR Public Symposium – Tuesday, July 7, 5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Join us at this unique event at the Obra Social CosmoCaixa Museum. This year's event, in collaboration with la Caixa Foundation (Fundacion Caja de Ahorros y Pensiones de Barcelona), includes a 15-minute movie, "A Stem Cell Story," from EuroStemCell and EuroSyStem (English with Spanish subtitles) and a panel discussion with filmmakers and experts in stem cell research and ethics. Questions and answers with the audience will be translated in English and Spanish. Take the opportunity to browse the photo exhibit, 'Smile of a Stem Cell,' from ESTOOLS, showing concurrently at the museum. Advance registration is recommended and will open soon. Check the [ISSCR Web site](#) for details.

Industry Wednesday Symposia — Wednesday, July 8, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Two half-day symposia presented simultaneously, one from Thermo Fisher Scientific, "New Tools and Technologies to Accelerate Stem Cell Research," and one from PerkinElmer, "Applications of Cellular Imaging and Molecular Characterization for hESCs."

For more information and to register online, visit www.isscr.org/meetings.

Stem Cell "Tourism"

There has been a flurry of publications and articles recently on offshore stem cell treatments. Here is a list of links to some recent publications including the [ISSCR's Guidelines for the Clinical Translation of Stem Cells](#) which were written by an international taskforce.

[UKNSCN](#) Position Statement

[Stem Cell Interventions for Spinal Cord Injury](#) prepared by the Australia New Zealand Spinal Cord Injury Network

[Monitoring and Regulating Offshore Stem Cell Clinics](#) by Sorapop Kiatpongsanand Douglas Sipp, Science, 20 March 09

[Stem-cell therapy faces more scrutiny in China](#), by David Cyranoski, Nature, 14 May 2009.

[Stem Cell Clinics Online: The Direct-to-Consumer Portrayal of Stem Cell Medicine](#), by Lau et al, Cell Stem Cell, 4 December 2008.

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](#)).

Statutes and Membership Guidelines

The ICSCN statutes and membership guidelines have been updated to reflect the outcomes of the Cairns meeting. To view, please visit the [ICSCN website](#) and provide any comments or feedback to the [Secretariat](#).

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.

Articles and Links of Interest

Blogs and Commentary

The Niche at Nature:

<http://blogs.nature.com/reports/theniche/>

The Stem Cell: <http://thestemcellblog.com>

California Stem Cell Report:

<http://californiastemcellreport.blogspot.com/>

Legislation and Regulation

Global Regulation of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Oocyte Donation

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: [Global Regulation of HESC Research and Oocyte Donation](#). This document is updated regularly.

What Color is Your State? Published periodically by [thestemcellblog.com](#) is a color-coded ranking of American states and their legislative positions on embryonic stem cell research.

Detailed [regulations](#) in EU member's states can be found on the EU's European Group on Ethics recommendations for hESC research.

ISSCR International Legislation on Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research, at:

<http://www.isscr.org/public/regions/index.cfm>

StemGen World Map of laws, policies, regulations or guidelines, 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 *non-profit 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

[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

[Stem Cell Resources](#) is a website dedicated to public education. It is a fantastic resource for teachers, students and the interested public.

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.

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 has developed a new website, www.stemcellchannel.com.au which includes footage and animation on topics including SCNT, ethics, legislation, careers in stem cell research and patient information.

Websites of Interest

Nature Reports Stem Cells:

<http://www.nature.com/stemcells/index.html>

www.stemcellscience.org

www.stemcells.net

www.stemcellnews.com

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due end July. Please email content and articles to the Secretariat by 24 July 09.