



Welcome to the ICSCN update for November 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.

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ICSCN at ISSCR 2009, Barcelona

ICSCN Meeting

The ICSCN held a series of meetings in Barcelona in July to coincide with the annual ISSCR meeting. Following feedback from previous meetings, the main ICSCN meeting had been separated into two sessions:

Main Session

A relatively informal lunch chaired by Dr Oliver Brustle of the Stem Cell Network, North Rhine Westphalia comprising 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. 17 Networks were represented by 24 attendees at the meeting.

Planning Session

The purpose of this meeting was to undertake some detailed planning for the upcoming year. The key topics discussed were: ICSCN workshops, Stem Cell Awareness Day, the 2010 Post-Doc Symposium, stem cell tourism and ongoing logistics including the website.

The full minutes and outcomes from each meeting can be found [here](#).

ICSCN Post-Doc Symposium

The ICSCN held its first ICSCN Post-Doc Symposium in Barcelona where over two days 17 of the best junior investigators from 8 networks gave presentations and participated in discussions and a networking dinner. The list of presentations can be found in the ICSCN 2009 meeting minutes.

2010 Post-Doc Symposium

Planning for the 2010 Post-doc symposium is about to commence, and members should begin to think about how they will select their delegates for next year. Please note that we are planning a parallel session for junior researchers studying ethical legal and social issues. More information will be provided soon.

Member News

Scottish Stem Cell Network

The SSCN hosted the first ICSCN Bioinformatics Workshop on 21-22 September 2009. With speakers from Germany, London, California, Canada and Scotland covering topics specific to bioinformatics and stem cells the meeting was widely deemed a success. www.sscn.co.uk

California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

New Collaborations

CIRM recently signed three new collaborations. The first with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the second with Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO). Perhaps most significantly, the most recent was on October 19, 2009 with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). The agreement was signed at CIRM headquarters by Jin Xiaoming, MOST's Director General for its Department of International Cooperation, and Alan Trounson, President of CIRM. Given the considerable investment that both CIRM and MOST are making in stem cell research, the two agencies expect to create synergies by making it easier for Chinese and Californian scientists to form collaborative teams.

This brings the total list of CIRM's partners to nine with the Australian state of Victoria, Canada, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom also on the list. For more information, click [here](#).

Disease Team Grants

On 28 October 2009 the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine and two international partners awarded more than US\$250 million to 14 multidisciplinary teams of researchers in California, the UK and Canada to develop stem cell-based therapies for 11 diseases. The Disease Team Research Awards include approximately US\$8 million from the Medical Research Council, UK, and approximately US\$35 million from the Cancer Stem Cell Consortium, Canada, to fund the international portions of the collaborations. Visit the CIRM [website](#) for more information.

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>

New Website

The www.stemcells.nrw.de website first went online in 2002, the year the Stem Cell Network NRW was founded. Since then it has offered its users up-to-date news on national and international stem cell research, including an overview of the research activities in NRW and the latest events and training opportunities for scientists.

Regenerative Medicine Initiative Germany - RMIG

Joint German-Californian RegMed funding program

The State Secretary of the Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), Professor Frieder Meyer-Krahmer and the President of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), Dr. Alan Trounson have signed on September, 17th, 2009 a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing on a joint funding program to expand the research and development efforts of Germany and California in the field of regenerative medicine. Click here for the [CIRM](#) press release or [here](#) for more information or contact Dr Frank-Roman Lauter, +49-30-450-539-422, business.development@b-crt.de for more information.

New York Stem Cell Foundation

The New York Stem Cell Foundation's Fourth Annual Translational Stem Cell Research Conference took place on October 13 and 14, 2009 at the Rockefeller University in New York City. The conference, the preeminent gathering of its kind, is devoted to demonstrating the potential of stem cell research to advance cures for the major diseases of our time.

[Click here](#) to view to the Conference Agenda
[Click here](#) to download the Conference Brochure as a pdf

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.

Fifth UKNSCN Patents Digest Published For July/August 2009

The latest stem cell patents digest covering the period 1 July to 31 August 2009 is now available for downloading from the UKNSCN website at the link below. This report is 43 pages long and contains brief bibliographic information on 156 patents designed to enable you to pick out relevant patents and conduct your own further study on the relevant database using the patent number. The report contains:

139 published patents: 95 adult, 32 embryonic, 12 iPS

17 granted patents: 13 adult, 3 embryonic, 1 iPS

[Download Patents Digest](#)

Stem Cell Network, Canada

Support growing for Stem Cell Charter

Stem cell supporters now have a new way to get behind the science. The Stem Cell Charter was launched on September 22, 2009 as an initiative of the Canadian Stem Cell Foundation, with the support of Canada's Stem Cell Network (SCN). In the two weeks since its launch, the Charter has been signed by more than 1200 people from around the globe.



The Stem Cell Charter is an interactive web-based document that affirms the importance of stem cell research for people everywhere. It was written by world-renowned bioethicist and SCN investigator Bartha Maria Knoppers of McGill University, in collaboration with a working group of stem cell scientists, patients, ethicists and laypeople.

"There's so much potential contained within this area of science, and research is progressing rapidly," Knoppers said in a statement. "As a community, we needed a framework to move the field forward responsibly. The Charter provides this, and does so in a way that's accessible to anyone."

The Charter articulates five scientific principles - responsible science, protection of citizens, intellectual freedom, transparency and integrity. "These are the cornerstone of the science - they separate responsible research conducted in labs from unregulated and unproven treatments," says Dr. Michael Rudnicki, Scientific Director of the Stem Cell Network.

Founding organisational signatories to the Charter include SCN as well as the Genetics Policy Institute and JDRF International. Individuals can sign at any time at www.stemcellcharter.org; organizations wishing to become part of the Charter universe can contact James Price at japrice@stemcellfoundation.ca

Australia

Australian Stem Cell Centre

The ASCC has undergone a substantial period of reform over the past eighteen months. You can view the ASCC's new Strategy and research portfolio on its new website at www.stemcellcentre.edu.au. Here you can also keep up to date with stem cell news in Australia by subscribing to the Centre's [Newsletter](#).

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

ISSCR News

Outcomes from the 2009 ISSCR Meeting, Barcelona

In July 2009 the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), the world's largest stem cell organisation, held its annual meeting in Barcelona. Over 3000 attendees participated. An overview of the publications associated with this meeting can be found by clicking [here](#).

ISSCR 8th Annual Meeting

June 16-19, 2010

Moscone West, San Francisco, CA USA



The [ISSCR Annual Meeting](#) has become the preeminent international stem cell meeting of the foremost stem cell professionals from public, private, academic and government settings. It provides a forum to promote and foster the exchange of research, featuring leading discoveries of the year and serving as a catalyst for inspired stem cell research around the world. Learn more about our [2010 co-sponsor, CIRM](#).

Important Dates

Abstract submission begins: October 7, 2009
Registration starts: December 7, 2009
Abstract submission ends: January 14, 2010

International News and Events

Stem Cell Awareness Day, 23 September 2009

Stem Cell Awareness Day is a public education initiative linking scientists, clinicians, patients and the general public around the world. The Australian celebration was marked by Monash University hosting a webcast linking international stem cell scientists with video seminars which addressed a wide range of topics related to stem cell science and clinical advances. To view the discussions and lectures, which will be available until the end of October, please see www.stemcellawarenessday.com.

Messages in support of Stem Cell Awareness Day, including a statement from Professor Alan Trounson of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine and proclamations from Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, Governor Jim Doyle of Wisconsin, Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco and Mayor Jerry Sanders of San Diego can be found on www.stemcellday.com.

Cell Stem Cell – Culturing Stem Cell Awareness

A recent article entitled *Culturing Stem Cell Awareness* by Kathleen M. Wonga in *Cell Stem Cell* ([doi:10.1016/j.stem.2009.10.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.stem.2009.10.001)) describes recent stem cell awareness activities including the launch of the Stem Cell Charter and Stem Cell Awareness Day. The article also refers to the discussions held at the

ICSCN meeting in Barcelona regarding the Consortium working with the Stem Cell Awareness Day organisers to make it a truly global event in 2010.

Launch of NIH-Website for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Lines for Approval

NIH started to begin accepting requests for hESCs to be approved for use in NIH-funded research. From 21.09.2009 on the website <http://stemcells.nih.gov/> becomes an interactive web form allowing the submission of information online. For further information please refer to the following [website](#).

EU Stem Cell Research Mapping

[EuroSyStem](#) is mapping stem cell activities across Europe to develop a smart contact database of active stem cell researchers. Find out more at www.stemdirect.net

World Stem Cell Summit, 2009

21-23 September 2009, Baltimore, Maryland.

The 2009 World Stem Cell Summit webcast is now available online, see http://www.worldstemcellsummit.com/2009_webcast_entry.html

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

Adult Stem Cell Bank in Australia Opens

Australia's first adult stem cell bank Cytentia has commenced operation in Melbourne to produce, store and distribute adult-tissue-derived stem cells (including iPS cells) for pre-clinical and clinical research. Hosted by the O'Brien Institute in the St Vincent's Hospital precinct, the bank will operate in compliance with the principles of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) and follow the soon to be published International Guidelines for Stem Cell Banking of the International Stem Cell Banking Initiative (ISCBI). See www.bobim.org for more information.

Webinar: iPS Cells - Breaking Down the Barriers to Therapeutics

Cell Press is launching a new [Webinar](#). *iPS Cells - Breaking Down the Barriers to Therapeutics* which will be held **November 12 at 12:30 pm EST/ 9:30 am PST/ 5:30 pm GMT/4.30am (Nov 13) Australian EDST**. Presenters include Dr Kevin Eggan, Harvard University, Harvard Stem Cell Institute and Stowers Medical Institute; Dr. Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies and director of the Center of Regenerative Medicine in Barcelona; and Dr. Hans R. Schöler, director of Max Planck Institute for Molecular Biomedicine, Münster, Germany, and adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

List of Core Facilities and Stem Cell Registries

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

Unregulated Stem Cell Therapies

There has again been a flurry of publications and articles recently on offshore stem cell treatments. In a detailed article entitled [Trading on Hope](#) (subscription required) written by Jane Qiu for *Nature Biotechnology*, a number of these companies and the countries in which they operate are discussed. The author details commercial operations in China, India, Thailand and their links in many cases to the USA. The regulatory framework in these countries is also discussed and outlines the 'mixed messages' that seem to beset this area.

Another article entitled [The Rocky Road to Regulation](#) authored by Doug Sipp of the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology, Kobe, Japan was published in *Nature Reports Stem Cells*. This article discusses the difficulties in regulating stem cell clinics across the globe and examines reasons why a number of countries have attempted to curtail the provision of unproven therapies and how they have gone about it.

In a development that should be applauded, the Chinese Ministry of Health tightened regulations on stem cell therapies in May 2009. Chinese institutions have been forbidden from commercialising stem cell

treatments without first proving that they work through proper clinical trials. The guidelines state that approval for stem cell treatments must be gained from the health ministry. [Read more](#).

Germany's largest weekly news magazine Spiegel (German language only) has published an article appealing to patients to contact the journalist if they have undergone any treatment in the X-Cell Center or elsewhere. Find out more at <http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/medizin/0,1518,652890,00.html>

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.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due mid February 2010. Please email content and articles to the Secretariat by 1 February 2010.

Minutes of 7th Meeting of the ICSCN

Planning Meeting Wednesday 8 July & Main Session Thursday 9 July 2009, Barcelona, Spain

Attendees

Name	Network	Planning Meeting	Main Session/Lunch
Richard Mollard	Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research	No	Yes
Rebecca Skinner	Australian Stem Cell Centre	Yes	Yes
Don Gibbons	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine	Yes	Yes
Pat Olsen or nominee	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine	No	Yes
Patrick Taylor, JD	Co-chair of the ISSCR Standards Committee and chair of the ISSCR Registry Planning subcommittee representing ISSCR	No	Yes
Jeanette Walker	East of England Stem Cell Network	Yes	Yes
Rob Margolin	Genetics Policy Institute	No	Yes
Chris Mason	London Regenerative Medicine Network	No	No
Joeri Borstlap	Network in Regenerative Medicine - Berlin	Yes	Yes
Scott Noggle	New York Stem Cell Foundation	No	Yes
Caroline Marshall	New York Stem Cell Foundation	Yes	Yes
David Mckeon	New York Stem Cell Foundation	No	Yes
David Kahler	New York Stem Cell Foundation	No	Yes
Michael Whitaker	North-East England Stem Cell Institute	Yes	No
Helen Clamp	North-East England Stem Cell Institute	No	Yes
Amparo Galán	Prince Felipe Research Centre, Spain	Yes	Yes
M. Eugenia Póo	Prince Felipe Research Centre, Spain	No	Yes
Doug Sipp	RIKEN CDB, SNAP, ISSCR International Committee	Yes	Yes
Jo Mountford	Scottish Stem Cell Network	Yes	Yes
Drew Lyall	Stem Cell Network Canada	Yes	Yes
Sophie Charge	Stem Cell Network Canada	No	Yes
Lisa Willemse	Stem Cell Network Canada	No	Yes
Oliver Brustle	Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia	No	Yes
Ira Herrmann	Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia	Yes	Yes
Martin Heyer	Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia	No	Yes
Ben Sykes	UK National Stem Cell Network	Yes	Yes

Minutes

Planning Meeting – July 8, 9am-12noon, Hotel Diagonal Zero, Barcelona, Spain.

Meeting Chair: Mr Drew Lyall

1. Brief overview of 2008/09 accomplishments
2. Disease workshops proposal (Drew/Ben Sykes)
 - The UKNSCN held a successful workshop that explored the clinical translation
 - The UKNSCN and the SCN have provided a proposed framework for a series of disease themed workshop organised by the ICSCN(See Attachment A - Proposed framework for a series of 2/3-day disease-based workshops catalysed by the ICSCN)
 - The proposal suggests a two day international workshop under the ICSCN banner
 - The workshop would focus on lower profile diseases such as motor neuron disease and work in partnership with the disease groups and charities
 - Participants to include research groups, patient groups and treatment providers. ICSCN members to qualify participants, in particular those that are offering treatments outside of mainstream stem cell therapies
 - ICSCN agreed that there is consensus that a workshop is a good idea, the workshop is to be held in 2010.
 - Interested parties and volunteers to contact Drew Lyall or Ben Sykes
3. Update on Bioinformatics Workshop, Edinburgh, September 2009
 - The SSCN put out a general call for abstracts but in general the meeting organisation was proceeding well
4. Discussion of other potential workshops
 - It was proposed that the next ICSCN workshop would focus on the topics of bioprocessing and bioreactors and stem cells with both NESCI and EESCN running meetings that could incorporate these topics
 - The EESCN suggested an imaging and tracking workshop following an audit of the Cambridge area technologies. It was suggested that this be turned into a two day international workshop
5. International Stem Cell Awareness Day (Don Gibbons, CIRM)
 - CIRM are participating in Stem Cell Awareness Day (SCAD), 23 September 2009 which was held for the first time in 2008 by Monash University in Melbourne Australia
 - The website is stemcellday.com
 - CIRM are sending researchers into 50 classrooms during SCAD and are encouraging other networks and countries to host events on that day as well
 - It is proposed that the ICSCN be involved in organising or assisting with SCAD in 2010 with the possibility of the event being badged an ICSCN event
6. Advertising non-member events
 - a. Commercial (e.g. Stem Cell Summit)
 - b. Non-commercial
 - The ICSCN is receiving requires from non-member organisations to advertise events, however the ISSCR maintains a good list of events. Therefore the ICSCN will not duplicate this function
7. 2010 PDF Symposium
 - In 2009 the ICSCN for the first time hosted a successful post-doctoral fellow workshop preceding ISSCR in Barcelona on July 7 - 8

- PDFs from 7 networks gave a wide range of talks with much discussion and debate chaired by Dr Jo Mountford from the University of Glasgow and Professors Andrew Elefanty and Ed Stanley from Monash University
- In 2010 CIRM has offered to host the workshop at their headquarters preceding the 2010 ISSCR meeting in San Francisco
- The ICSCN will also investigate running a similar workshop on ethical, legal and social issues.

8. ICSCN Website

- The ICSCN has a new website built by the Canadian SCN (www.stemcellconsortium.org)
- The ICSCN will do a regular call for content
- The ICSCN discussed the usefulness of a resource toolbox, possibly in a password protected area where the networks can share resources such as public education materials

9. Ongoing logistics

- The secretariat members (Rebecca Skinner, Drew Lyall, Ira Hermann & Marilyn Robertson) meet regularly via teleconference (every two months)
- All other members are welcome to join and become more involved in the administrative organisation of the ICSCN
- Other networks invited to help cover the small amount it costs to run the annual meeting
- Reach out to new networks to attend, important to remain inclusive

10. Other business

- Stem cell tourism and ISSCR guidelines are ongoing important issues of each of the networks
- Several networks are producing local translations or versions of the ISSCR guidelines

Main Meeting – July 9, 1-3pm, Hotel Diagonal Zero, Barcelona, Spain.

Meeting Chair: Professor Oliver Brustle

1. Welcome from the Chair (Oliver Brustle)
2. Outcomes of Day 1 Planning Meeting (Drew Lyall)
3. Brief 5 minute overview from each member of your network's single biggest achievement or learning:

ISSCR

- Produced and launched Guidelines for the Clinical Translation of Stem Cells
- The president of the ISSCR is very concerned about the deceptive marking of stem cell research
- ISSCR are setting up a stem cell registry including ready access to ethical information for funding applications in various countries

UK National Stem Cell Network

- The UKNSCN has a new management structure – Ben Sykes appointed Executive Director, Management Board comprising four Government Sponsors, expert advisory committee of 25
- Next scientific meeting is being held in Nottingham, July 12-14, 2010. Total meeting cost is £75,000 including accommodation for all participants

UK Stem Cell Bank

- Publishing guidelines in Stem Cell Reports

RIKEN CDB/ Stem Cell Network Asia Pacific

- SNAP was launched in 2007 with a meeting held in early 2009 in Kobe
- China and Korea have launched a stem cell societies and China has issued new stem cell guidelines
- Kyoto University are setting up a Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA) with Shinya Yamanaka as Director. CiRA will house 20 laboratories when finished

Prince Felipe Research Centre, Spain (Spanish Stem Cell Bank)

- 8 lines currently available also listed in the hESCreg

North-East England Stem Cell Institute

- Following the media storm over the paper describing ES cells to gametes, NESCI would like to discuss handling the media with other networks

East of England Stem Cell Network

- Pfizer have opened regenerative medicine laboratories in Cambridge who are active in the Network
- Network focused on commercialisation
- Use electronic voting in

California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

- Increasing numbers of MOUs with interstate and international partners with China, India and the Netherlands also interested in signing MOUs with CIRM
- 32 Applicants applying for IND Grants, aim to have an IND within four years – very fast

- Promoting Stem Cell Awareness Day on 23 September 09
- CIRN have secure funding for 18 months

Scottish Stem Cell Network

- Membership now of 900 researchers, companies, clinicians and patient groups
- New funding for 3 years plus sponsorship funds
- Award £45,000 in travel awards to support and engage researchers
- Running or have run several events including a public event, *Its My Skin*, Translational iPS Meeting and the ICSCN Bioinformatics Meeting 21-22 September 2009
- Looking to strengthen public education

Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia

- Now seven years old, still only German network dedicated to stem cell science
- Financially secure
- The State of North Rhine-Westphalia are investing €8.5 million into iPS research led by Hans Schoeler

Australian Stem Cell Centre/Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research

- ASCC has been through a period of intense change but is now stable for the remainder of its funding period to June 2011
- The Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research (ASSCR) was set up in 2007
- In November 2009 the ASSCR is holding its second annual scientific meeting in Canberra (www.asscr.org)

Stem Cell Network Canada

- Producing ethics whitepapers including one on stem cell tourism
- Held a stem cells photographic and art competition
- 2009 AGM is being held in Montreal, the SCN will provide international travel awards and would like the networks to encourage applicants

Genetics Policy Institute

- The GPI are holding the World Stem Cell Summit in September 2009 in Baltimore, USA
- Stem cell tourism and education are a focus
- The GPI are setting up a website of educational resources

Next Meeting

- San Francisco, June 2010

Attachment A - Proposed framework for a series of 2/3-day disease-based workshops catalysed by the ICSCN

The ICSCN can play an important role in catalyzing stem cell research in disease areas where the extent of expertise within any single country is relatively small. It is proposed that ICSCN members collaborate with relevant health charities from around the world to develop a series of 2/3-day workshops to catalyse research in such areas. The document sets out the expected outcomes and format for such workshops and a high level implementation strategy.

Anticipated outcomes

1. At a minimum each workshop would produce a consensus statement or review article (possible for submission to a publication such as Regenerative Medicine) outlining the following:
 - The nature of the disease and current treatment approaches
 - The state of stem cell research with respect to the disease, relevant clinical models, and future prospects for the development of a stem cell based therapy;
 - Key scientific, clinical, manufacturing/commercial and regulatory impediments to the development of a stem cell based therapy, with a focus on those unique to the disease in question.
2. The article should also be condensed into a separate lay summary that is accessible to the patient population.
3. The workshop itself should allow participants to identify potential new international collaborators, and position them well for future applications to the participating charities.
4. The consensus document may also provide the basis for the relevant health charities to:
 - Galvanise some of the world's leading stem cell researchers to take an interest in their disease area;
 - Establish an evidence based RFA/Framework for evaluating research proposals involving stem cell research;
 - Leverage the outcomes into a fundraising campaign; or,
 - Conduct significant outreach to their patient base
5. The participating networks would demonstrably fulfill a niche by bringing together an otherwise disparate international stem, cell community to collaborate, accelerate the science, and potentially catalyse new investments in the field. It is a role no other organization is well-placed to undertake.

Agenda for each workshop

This would be developed in partnership between the relevant charities and a working group drawn from the ICSCN. The format would necessarily comprise a series of presentations and facilitated breakout groups, with a formal “reporter” responsible for preparing an initial draft of the consensus statement/paper.

Presentations would need to cover:

- The nature of the disease and current treatment approaches
- Current basic stem cell research relevant to the disease
- Clinical models
- Manufacturing/commercial and regulatory issues

To be fully useful, perhaps abstracts should be called for in advance of the meeting, and a summary book consolidating relevant publications prepared

Participants

Would be expected to include basic researchers, clinicians, regulators, commercial interests, and scientific and (potentially) lay representatives from health charities.

Logistics

Travel and accommodations costs for International participants from ICSCN to be absorbed by member networks. Hosting costs (Meeting rooms/meals) etc to be absorbed by charities. Reporter costs tbd.

It is proposed that this workshop be piloted with one willing disease group in 2009/10. Based on the feedback and learning from the pilot, consider potential for wider rollout to other disease areas in 2010/11 and beyond.

Target partner

- A disease group with a serious unmet medical need with a small enough patient/research base that there is no current critical mass within one country advancing stem cell research
- A disease group willing and able to work with its international affiliates/peers
- A disease group with at least one full-time Scientific/Research director that can assist in developing the agenda
- A disease group that can contribute financially to the workshop as described above.

Attachment B – ICSCN Post-Doc Symposium Schedule

July 7-8, 2009, Africa Room, Hotel Diagonal Zero, Barcelona

Session 1. 7th July AM **STEM CELL DERIVATION AND PLURIPOTENCY**

ALESSANDRA GIORGETTI (SPAIN)

Generation of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) from cord blood stem cells

AKITSU HOTTA (SCN)

EOS lentiviral enrichment of human and mouse iPS cells for disease and chromatin ultrastructural studies

RAYMOND CHING-BONG WONG (CIRM)

Novel genes involved in the maintenance of pluripotency in human embryonic stem cells

MICHAEL O'CONNOR (SCN)

High-Throughput siRNA Screening of Human Embryonal Carcinoma Cells Reveals Novel Genes Required for Maintenance of the Stem Cell State of HESCs and IPS Cells

TUNG-LIANG CHUNG (ASCC)

Ascorbate in serum-free culture medium causes CD30 expression and widespread specific demethylation within the human embryonic stem cell epigenome

Session 2. 7th July PM **STEM CELL CULTURE AND DIFFERENTIATION**

RITA VASENNA (SPAIN)

A 2-step culture system increases the population of putative mouse spermatogonia stem cells in vitro

PHILIPP KOCH (NWRSCN)

From pluripotency to Functional Integration

CHRISTOPHER FASANO (NYSCF)

The specification of functional floor plate tissue from human embryonic stem cells.

AHMI BEN-YEHUDAH

Utilizing Pedigreed non-human Embryonic Stem Cells for the Study of Lung Development

SANTIAGO VILLEGAS (SSCN)

Identification of genes and signalling pathways involved in the specification of anterior definitive endoderm

DANIEL MALTMAN (NESCI)

Cellular and proteomic investigation into the basis for mesenchymal stem cell-induced neurogenesis

Session 3. 8th July AM **STEM CELL THERAPY AND APPLICATIONS**

KINUKO MASAKI (CIRM) Stepwise Guidance of human Embryonic Stem Cells along the OTIC Lineage

CARLA MELLOUGH (NESCI)

'The development of human embryonic stem cell therapy for the treatment of outer retinal degeneration'

THERÉSE KALLUR (NRWSCN)

Human fetal neural stem cells as a source for cell replacement therapy in stroke

TOBIAS KURTH (SSCN)

In vivo Cell Tracking Experiments reveal Chondrogenic Stem Cells in the Synovium of Mouse Knee Joints.

MICHAEL DORAN (ASCC)

Membrane Bioreactors for Enhanced Microenvironmental Conditioning and Tissue Development

DIANA VALBUENA (SPAIN)

Optimizing the Derivation of hESC lines from Single Blastomeres in Human Feeders (heldover from Session1)