



Welcome to the ICSCN update for October 2007.

This newsletter is intended as 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 and contribute news and updates for future newsletters and the website.

www.stemcellconsortium.org

ICSCN Members

- Australian Stem Cell Centre
- Berlin-Brandenburg Center for Regenerative Medicine
- California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
- East of England Stem Cell Network
- International Society for Stem Cell Research
- International Stem Cell Forum
- New York Stem Cell Foundation
- North East England Stem Cell Institute
- Norwegian Centre for Stem Cell Research
- RIKEN Centre for Developmental Biology
- Scottish Stem Cell Network
- Spanish Stem Cell Bank
- Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia
- Stem Cell Network, Canada
- Stem Cell Research Forum of India
- UK National Stem Cell Network

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Last call for registration: International Conference on GMP Issues in Stem Cells – Developing Clinical Grade Stem Cell Therapies

15-16 November, 2007
International Centre for Life
Newcastle, UK
Only a few spots left!



The conference is nearly all sold out. Registration is encouraged as soon as possible.

Co-hosted by the North East England Stem Cell Institute and the ICSCN, the conference is designed to facilitate international cooperation in the area of developing clinical grade stem cell therapies on GMP in stem cells.

Bringing together people from across the world with experience of translating cGMP regulations into stem cell science, the conference is aimed at clinicians, academics and industrialists interested in this exciting new area of science. Places are strictly limited to a maximum of 40 participants to allow a full exchange of ideas and views.

For more information, registration details and the full program please visit the [NЕСI website](http://www.nesci.org.uk).

ISSCR Soliciting Nominations for Board of Directors

**Nomination Deadline:
4 December, 2007**

The ISSCR Nominations Committee, chaired by Paul Simmons, is soliciting nominations for Board of Directors positions, including the office of vice president, that will become available in June 2008. Other members of the Nominating Committee include Peter Andrews, Markus Grompe, Ronald McKay, Fiona Watt and Ian Wilmut. **Nominations will be accepted until midnight (CST) Dec. 4, 2007.**

Nominations can be made by current ISSCR members and should include the nominee's contact information. All eligible candidates (must be ISSCR members) will be reviewed by the Nominations Committee for possible slating in the general membership election that takes place in February 2008. Send your nominations to Nancy Witty, ISSCR Executive Director, nwitty@isscr.org.

New Board members will be elected to a three-year term and are eligible for one additional term appointment. Board members are expected to attend two board meetings per year (one held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting) and to actively participate in the ISSCR Annual Meeting. Board members are expected to assume volunteer leadership positions within the Society.

The ISSCR actively seeks international representation on the Board of Directors.



Photo credit: http://www.bvalic.com/pensionblog/2006_06_01_archive.html

Survey: hESC Line Registry in Canada

Survey Open to Canadian and International Stakeholders

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research's (CIHR) Stem Cell Oversight Committee (SCOC)

is reviewing the Guidelines for Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research (the "Guidelines") as they pertain to the establishment of a human embryonic stem cell (hESC) line registry. SCOC is considering a requirement that all hESC lines derived under the auspices of an Institution that receives any Agency (CIHR, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), or the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)) funding be registered.

Currently, the Guidelines state:

"CIHR will establish an electronically accessible national registry of human embryonic stem cell lines generated in Canada. This registry will minimize the need to generate large numbers of cell lines, which should decrease the need for donation of large numbers of embryos."



CIHR IRSC

SCOC is soliciting the opinions of both Canadian and international stakeholders on this matter. The survey will be open until February 15, 2008.

For more information, and to complete the survey, please visit <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/f/35118.html>.

ICSCN Member Conference Reports

Stem Cell Network North Rhine-Westphalia 4th Annual International Meeting

8-9 October, 2007
Dusseldorf, Germany



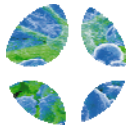
Stem Cell Network
North Rhine Westphalia

With speakers including Ron McKay (NIH), Haifan Lin (Yale), Stuart Orkin (Harvard) and Luis Parada (Dallas), more than 400 scientists were attracted to Dusseldorf to attend the 4th International Meeting of the Stem Cell Network North Rhine-Westphalia. In addition, 100 junior scientists presented their work as posters.

Professors Hans Schoeler and Oliver Brüstle ensured the meeting's scientific program included topics spanning adult, embryonic and germ stem cell research. Sessions such as "Stem Cell Self Renewal" with Haifan Lin, "Cancer and Stem Cells" with Andreas Trumpp (Epalinges), "Role of the Biological Niche" with Shin-Ichi Nishikawa (Kobe) and "Mechanisms Regulating the Stem Cell State" with Stuart Orkin guaranteed lecture halls were at their full capacity. The program concluded with "Translation of Stem Cell Technologies", with contributions from Peter Zandstra (Toronto) and Peter Andrews (Sheffield).

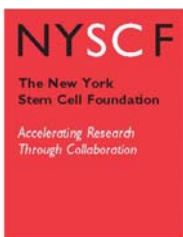
One of the highlights of the meeting was a keynote lecture by Kenneth Chien (Harvard), who

kept the audience on the edge of their seats as he led the satellite symposium entitled "Reprogramming of Somatic Cells for the Therapy of Heart Disorders".



Meeting abstracts are published in Regenerative Medicine, found at www.futuremedicine.com. A detailed congress report will be published shortly in Cloning and Stem Cells.

New York Stem Cell Foundation Second Annual Translational Stem Cell Research Conference



15-16 October, 2007
New York, USA

The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) convened a tremendously successful meeting this month in New York City, which highlighted some of the most exciting human

embryonic stem cell science currently underway in labs worldwide. The sold-out event stretched over two days, beginning with an evening of stem cell policy discussion moderated by bioethicist R. Alta Charo, JD. Scientific presentations followed on the second day of the meeting, bringing together pre-eminent senior scientists, including Douglas Melton of Harvard University, Alan Colman of Singapore's A*STAR, Rudolf Jaenisch of the Whitehead Institute and Irving Weissman of Stanford University. The event also featured poster presentations from NYSCF's current post-doctoral fellows, representing some of the brightest young minds and most promising work in the field. NYSCF CEO Susan Solomon announced that The New York Stem Cell Foundation is requesting applications for post-doctoral fellowships in stem cell research; the awardees will have an opportunity to present their work at NYSCF's Third Annual Conference, to be held on October 14-16, 2008 in New York City.

ICSCN Members' Upcoming Conferences and Events

The Biology and Use of Cord Blood



30 October, 2007
Glasgow, UK

Organised and chaired by Dr Joanne Mountford, this meeting promises a valuable insight into the clinical and operational aspects of cord blood

banking. Registration is now closed, but the programme can be found [here](#).

Workshop: Stem Cells and the Brain



13 November, 2007
Newcastle, UK

This workshop will explore the processes of neural differentiation in vitro and the potential of stem cell therapy for the treatment of neurological disorders. We will also examine the implications of endogenous neurogenesis for our understanding of normal brain function and the treatment of neurological and psychiatric diseases.

Registration deadline: 2 November, 2007. Abstract submission is now closed. For more information, visit the [NESCI website](#).

International Conference on GMP Issues in Stem Cells - Developing Clinical Grade Stem Cell Therapies



15-16 November, 2007
Newcastle, UK

For more information, registration details and the full program please visit the [NESCI](#) website.

UKNSCN 1st Annual Science Conference



9-11 April, 2008
Edinburgh, UK

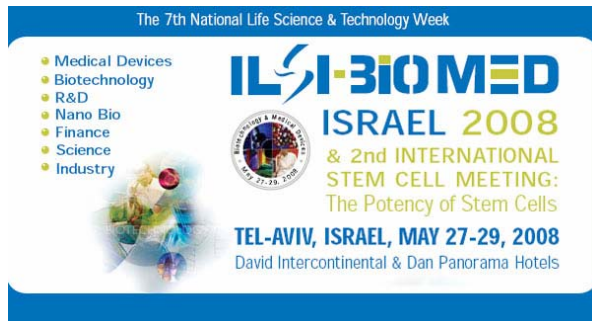
This conference will be a celebration of the best and latest in stem cell research from across the United Kingdom and, as such, will be open to UK-based delegates only in the first instance. Registration is not yet open, though places will be available for 300-400 delegates. The purpose of this notice is to alert UK researchers so that they may secure the dates in their diaries. The speaker programme is nearing completion and further details concerning registration will appear on the UKNSCN website in due course. The UKNSCN intends to establish this national meeting as an annual fixture in the stem cell research calendar and will move the meeting around UK cities which host centres of excellence in stem cell research.

ILSI Biomed Israel 2008 & 2nd International Stem Cell Meeting: The Potency of Stem Cells

27-29 May, 2008
Tel-Aviv, Israel

ILSI Biomed Israel 2008 follows the success of previous annual ILSI Biomed Israel conferences.

At last year's event, we were fortunate to host world renowned keynote speakers from both the Academia and international corporations. Over 2400 scientists, engineers and managers attended the conference, with over 600 participants from abroad.



Following last year's success the ILSI Biomed Israel 2008 organizing committee decided to increase the exposure to the vast variety of Israeli BioPharma and Medical Device players. Close to 70 companies will present and numerous Poster presentations will be given during the Conference. We will continue in our tradition of having plenary sessions given by Academia and Industry leaders worldwide.

We are confident that the expanded scope will offer unique opportunities for networking and learning. The meeting will offer one-on-one partnering sessions and an extensive exhibition area.

For more information, visit the [meeting website](#).

SCRFI Seminar: Hematopoietic Stem Cells

SCRFI
Stem Cell Research Forum of India

9-10 June, 2008
Bangalore and Delhi, India

For more information, including the event program, visit the [SCRFI website](#).

ISSCR plans travel awards for 6th ISSCR Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, USA, June 11-14, 2008

The 5th ISSCR Annual Meeting in Cairns, Australia, was a huge success with more than 1,900 registrants from 44 countries and a record number of poster presentations. In addition to the quality of the scientific presentations and the successful networking receptions, excellent attendance was achieved through the granting of an unprecedented number of travel awards. ISSCR was able to provide a record 297 awards to attendees from 30 different nations. This impressive feat was made possible thanks to the support ISSCR received from other stem cell

networks: NYSCF (29 awards), CIRM (10 awards), and ASCC (122 awards). These organizations pledged funds that were used in their entirety for travel awards granted on the merits espoused by the funding body; ASCC and CIRM gave awards to local applicants, and the NYSCF funded junior investigators from around the world.

To make the 6th ISSCR Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, as rich as the 2007 experience in Cairns, the ISSCR calls for stem cell network organizations to pledge support for travel awards for this meeting. Supporting travel awards is a win-win arrangement, with participating organizations ensuring that their constituents are able to attend the foremost meeting on stem cell research, and in turn contribute to and strengthen this important forum.



Photo credit: Thomas H. Caldwell

If you would like to sponsor travel awards for the 6th ISSCR Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, or have questions about this opportunity, contact Ryan Detwiler, Manager of Committees and Outreach, at rdetwiler@isscr.org.

Other Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

November, 2007

Shanghai International Symposium on Stem Cell Research, 2007

In association with the ISSCR
November 6-9, 2007
Shanghai, China

Abstract submission deadline has now passed.

For more information, visit the [symposium website](#).

European Molecular Biology Laboratory: Functional Genomics with Embryonic Stem Cells

24-26 November, 2007
Heidelberg, Germany

Abstract submission deadline has now passed.

For more information, visit the [EMBL website](#).

December, 2007

Stem Cells 2007

13-16 December, 2007

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Abstract submission deadline has now passed.

For more information, visit the [Abcam website](#).

February, 2008

American Association for Cancer Research: The Role of Cancer Stem Cells in the Initiation and Propagation of Tumorigenesis

12-15 February, 2008

Los Angeles, California

Abstract and award deadline: December 10, 2007

Advance registration deadline: January 8, 2008

For more information, visit the [AACR website](#).

Keystone Symposia on Tumor Suppressors and Stem Cell Biology

24-29 February, 2008

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Late abstract deadline: November 26, 2007

Early registration deadline: December 26, 2007

For more information, visit the [Keystone Symposia website](#).

International Funding Opportunities

American Australian Association Fellowships



The American Australian Association offers annual fellowship awards for American graduates and post-graduates to come to Australia and for Australian graduates and post-graduates to visit America. One of the priority areas is stem cell research. **Application deadline for applicants to the US to Australia program is 31 October, 2007.** For more information please visit the [Association's educational website](#).

Human Frontier Science Program



The HFSP supports novel, interdisciplinary basic research focused on the complex mechanisms of living organisms for researchers in or from partner countries including: **Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Japan, UK, USA and many others**. Applications are open throughout the year for Short-Term Fellowships (STF) for early career researchers. Scientists from one of the supporting countries may apply for a STF to work for a short period (2 weeks to 3 months) in a laboratory in ANY country. Conversely, researchers from non-partner countries may apply for a STF to work in a member country. Full details and application forms available at: www.hfsp.org.

GrantsNet: International Funding Index

[GrantsNet](#) is an international resource to find funds for training in the sciences and undergraduate science education. The service is completely free.

ISSCR Funding Corner



The [ISSCR website](#) provides a comprehensive list of funding opportunities for stem cell research.

Regional News

Germany's Research Minister Proposes a New Cut-off Date for Stem Cell Import

The Stem Cell Act, which regulates research with human embryonic stem cells in Germany, allows German researchers to import only stem cell lines that had been established prior to January 1, 2002. Researchers, together with the German Research Foundation, have started a new initiative to discuss a potential change of this law. Mrs. Annette Schavan, the German Minister for Research known for her conservative views, has surprisingly proposed a change of the import cut-off date to May, 2007. A final decision from the German parliament is currently awaited.

State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany Awarded 3.75 M Euro for Junior Research Group Leaders

Support of junior investigators is one of the main goals of the Stem Cell Network NRW, Germany. With the financial support of the Ministry of Innovation, Science, Research and Technology of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the network can provide the opportunity for three independent research groups to be established at a North Rhine-Westphalian research institute. Announcement of the awardees occurred during the network's 4th International Meeting. **Joachim Goethert** will work on oxygen-mediated pathways in hematopoietic stem cells and the comparison with leukemogenesis at the University of Essen. **Takashi Hiiragi** will continue his basic research concerning the factors for pluripotency in the early mouse embryo at the Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Biomedicine. **Wolfgang Wagner** will investigate the interaction of hematopoietic progenitor cells and mesenchymal stromal cells as a model system for the stem cell niche at the University of Aachen.

ICSCN Administration News

Draft Framework for Fellowships, Exchange and Travel Grants

Following the success of the Stem Cell Network, Canada's International Travel Awards and following discussions at the ICSCN meeting, several ICSCN members have worked together to establish a framework for international exchange of researchers. A draft is available [here](#) and all ICSCN members are encouraged to comment and suggest changes **by 31 October 2007**. The final document will be made available in late November.

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](#).

New ICSCN Website to be Launched Next Month

The new ICSCN website will be active by late November, providing greater visibility and ability for members to share information and opportunities.

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

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

California Stem Cell Report:
<http://californiastemcellreport.blogspot.com/>

The Niche at Nature:
<http://blogs.nature.com/reports/theniche/>

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.

EuroStemCell Regulations in European Union member states, found on [EuroStemCell website](#).

Detailed [regulations](#) in EU members states also found on EU 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 '[Hinxtion 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.

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.

EuroStemCell has added 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.

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](#).

Websites of Interest

Nature Reports Stem Cells:

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

www.stemcellscience.org

www.stemcells.net

www.stemcellnews.com

Next Month

The next newsletter is due out on 23 November 2007. Please email content and articles to [Marilyn Robertson](#) at the Scottish Stem Cell Network or [Ira Herrmann](#) at the Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia by Monday, 19 November 2007.

Appendix 1 – Current ICSCN Members and Contact Details

Name	Network	Network Website	Email
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Arlene Chiu	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine	www.cirm.ca.gov	achiu@cirm.ca.gov
Patricia Olson	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine	www.cirm.ca.gov	polson@cirm.ca.gov
Jeanette Walker	East of England Stem Cell Network	www.eescn.org.uk	jeanettewalker@erbi.co.uk
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Ben Sykes	The New York Stem Cell Foundation	www.nyscf.org	eggan@mcb.harvard.edu
	UK National Stem Cell Network	www.uknscn.org	uksa@uknscn.org