



Welcome to the ICSCN update for August 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 and scientists. 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
- 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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International Conference on GMP Issues in Stem Cells - Developing Clinical Grade Stem Cell Therapies

**15-16 November, 2007,
Newcastle UK**



This conference, **co-hosted by the North-East England Stem Cell Institute and the ICSCN**, is designed to facilitate international cooperation in the area of developing clinical grade stem cell therapies. 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 [NESCI](http://www.nesci.org.uk) website.

ISSCR Travel Awards for 6th Annual Meeting

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.

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.

International Funding Opportunities

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 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.

Research Councils UK International Collaboration Strategy

[Research Councils UK \(RCUK\)](#), has announced its first strategy for supporting international research collaboration. With a combined research budget of over £2.8 billion a year, the seven councils which make up RCUK are the UK's biggest public funders of scientific research and a major influence on UK research priorities. The strategy has five aims: Encourage collaboration between UK researchers and the best researchers from around the world; Promote the movement of researchers to and from the UK; Give UK researchers access to data, facilities and resources; Influence the international research agenda; and Promote the UK as a world centre for research and innovation.

Regional News

Leading EU Scientists call for changes to European stem cell legislation

Scientists from [EuroStemCell](#) and [ESTOOLS](#) the two major EU funded stem cell research consortia are working together to highlight the impact that differing national legislation positions in European countries has on collaborative research, particularly in Germany and Italy where hESC research is highly restricted. In a [joint statement](#) sent to the Members of the European Parliament, the groups are calling for harmonisation of current laws in the hope that groups from countries with restrictive legislation are able to collaborate on international projects without fear of legal reprisal.

European Ethics Group Recommendations for the Ethical Review of hESC FP7 Research Projects

The European Group on Ethics (EGE) has delivered its most recent opinion to the Commission President, looking at the issues of ethics reviews of research projects using human embryonic stem cells. The [Opinion](#) contains recommendations for Ethics Provisions for hESC research funded under FP& as well as a detailed report on hESC research regulations in all of the EU member states.

CIRM Appoints Interim President

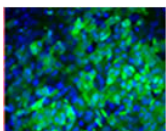
The governing board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) has named Dr Richard Murphy, as its interim president. Dr. Murphy was a member of the CIRM board until July 1, 2007, when he retired as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California. The appointment is effective September 1, 2007. Dr. Murphy will assume the position currently held by Lori Hoffman, who has served as the Institute's acting president since May, following the retirement of Dr Zach Hall, in April. Hoffman will remain Chief Finance and Administrative Officer for the agency.

NYSCF Awards Research Fellowships

The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF), will award research fellowships totalling more than \$5 million. The fellowships are part of NYSCF's ongoing commitment to training a new generation of human embryonic stem cell researchers. This program is significantly supported by a generous gift from Stanley and Fiona Druckenmiller. Each of the New York-based scientists will receive funding to support their research initiatives. They will have access to NYSCF's "safe haven" laboratory in Manhattan, where they will be able to conduct their research and receive training in Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) and other advanced techniques. The fellows will also be given the opportunity to present their research findings at NYSCF's annual Translational Stem Cell Research Conference. More information at www.nyscf.org

Stem Cell Banking and Registry's

International Stem Cell Forum ISCI Stem Cell Registry



ISCI
Stem Cell
Characterisation
Initiative

The International Stem Cell Initiative (ISCI) is a worldwide collaborative effort

to establish basic criteria and techniques that will underpin the eventual development of applications for hESC in human medicine.

For full information in the ISCI project and to use the stem cell registry please visit the [International Stem Cell Forum Website](http://www.internationalstemcellforum.org).

The results from this first phase of ISCI (phase two is currently in progress) can also be viewed as an advance online publication from 17 June 2007 in [Nature Biotechnology](http://www.nature.com).

Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry

The Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry is funded by the European Commission's 6th Framework Research Programme.

www.hESCreg.eu is a publicly accessible internet

hESCreg

site for researchers to submit and obtain information on hESC lines, their availability, characteristics and utilisation. The primary

objective of hESCreg.eu is to pool comprehensive information on cell lines, starting with those that have been derived in Europe and also non-European lines that are available to the scientific community at large.

UK Stem Cell Bank

Distribution stocks of the first 8 stem cell lines are now available from the UK Stem Cell Bank.

Applications to access the lines from the Bank should be made to the UK Steering Committee.

Application forms are available via the [MRC website](http://www.mrc.ac.uk). Further cell lines will be made available over the coming weeks and further information will be displayed shortly at:

<http://www.ukstemcellbank.org.uk/>

ICSCN Members Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

Stem Cells and Diabetes Sponsored by the Scottish Stem Cell Network

13th September 2007, Aberdeen, Scotland

Taking place at the Institute of Medical Sciences in Aberdeen, and with presentations from highly respected international experts, this CPD accredited meeting is essential for everyone connected to the field of Diabetes. See www.sscn.co.uk for more information

Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia 4th Annual International Meeting



Stem Cell Network
North Rhine Westphalia

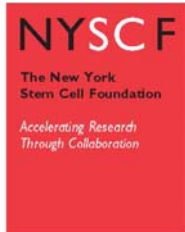
8-9 Oct, 2007 -
Dusseldorf,
Germany.

The 4th International Meeting will attract experts of international reputation including presentations of speakers such as Ron McKay and Stuart Orkin. This years meeting is focussing on **Cancer and Stem Cells** (presented i.e. by Luis Parada and Andreas Trumpp), **Regeneration and Aging** (with Nadia Rosenthal und Margaret Goodell) and **Roles of the Biological Niche** (with Dennis Steindler, Charles French-Constant and Shin-Ichi Nishikawa)! More information soon at:

www.congress.stemcells.nrw.de

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

15-16 October, 2007 – New York, USA



The primary aim of this meeting is to understand the potential of Adult and HESC research in advancing the search for cures of the major diseases of our time. More information at: www.nyscf.org

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

15-16 November, 2007, Newcastle UK



For more information and the full program please visit the [NESCI](http://www.nesci.org) website.

ICSCN Meeting, Cairns 2007

Minutes and Outcomes

The 2007 ICSCN meeting was held on Saturday 16 June in Cairns in conjunction with the ISSCR Annual meeting. The minutes from the meeting are currently available for comment and feedback on the [ICSCN](http://www.icscn.org) webpage.

Comments and feedback on the meeting as well as suggested ICSCN activities can be directed towards the [secretariat](mailto:secretariat@icscn.org).

Statutes and Membership Guidelines

The ICSCN statutes and membership guidelines have been updated to reflect the outcomes of the meeting. To view please visit the [ICSCN website](http://www.icscn.org) and provide any comments or feedback to the [secretariat](mailto:secretariat@icscn.org).

Future Activities

Following discussions at the meeting, several ICSCN members are currently working together to establish a framework for international exchange of researchers. A draft will be available shortly for comment.

The secretariat will also be coordinating a group of interested members to write a new mission statement for the ICSCN to reflect the growing and changing nature of the group.

Conferences

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.thestemcellsummit.com/>

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

Stem Cells European Business Summit

11-12 October 2007, Edinburgh, Scotland

This meeting will focus on the: Commercialisation of Stem Cell Research, Case Study Experiences from Start-Up Companies, The Regulatory and IP Situation, Review of Bioethics Related to Stem Cells, and Sources of Funding for Stem Cell Research.

<http://www.selectbiosciences.com/conferences/ESCBS2007/>

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.

Shanghai International Symposium on Stem Cell Research, 2007

In association with the ISSCR

November 6-9, 2007, Shanghai, China

<http://www.chinastemcell.org.cn/2007SIS/>

Abstract submission deadline is August 15, 2007

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 '[Hinxtan 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.

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](#).

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

International Society for Stem Cell Research:
www.isscr.org

Nature Reports Stem Cells:
<http://www.nature.com/stemcells/index.html>

www.stemcellscience.org

www.stemcells.net

www.stemcellnews.com

ICSCN Logo and Brand

All ICSCN members are encouraged to use the ICSCN logo and brand events ICSCN events where appropriate (for example see the [NESCI GMP](#) Conference information). 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 Month

The next newsletter is due out on 17 September 2007. Please email content and articles to the [Secretariat](#) by Thursday 13 September 2007.

Appendix 1 – Current ICSCN Members and Contact Details

Name	Network	Network Website	Email
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