



Welcome to the ICSCN update for July 2007.

Highlights this month include the outcomes from the June meeting as well as the many upcoming events of our members. It is going to be a busy couple of months.

All members are asked to distribute this newsletter to their wider groups as well as provide news and updates for future newsletters and the website.

[www.stemcellconsortium.org](http://www.stemcellconsortium.org)

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**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 webpage](#). Please provide any comments or changes by 10 August 2007.

Discussion at the meeting was wide ranging and some outcomes included: the need to establish an exchange/fellowship program; the need to detail access to all the various forms of funding for international activities; the formation of a coordinated secretariat to catalyze ICSCN activities; and enhanced communication between the members.

Comments and feedback on the meeting as well as suggested ICSCN activities can be directed towards the [secretariat](#).

**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](#) and provide any comments or feedback to the [secretariat](#).

**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.

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**Welcome New Members**

**UK National Stem Cell Network**

The UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN) was formally launched on 18 April 2007 by the Government's Minister for Science and Innovation Mr Malcolm Wicks. The Network was set up as a national body to improve the coordination of stem cell research and the dissemination of research results, in addition to providing a focal point for communication with overseas researchers, the media and the general public. The new Network was also integral in attracting the International Society for Stem Cell Research's annual science conference for 2009 to London's ExCel Centre, the first time the world's premier stem cell research conference will be held in Europe.



The UKNSCN is also planning its first full science meeting that will be held in April 2008 over two days.

To find out more about the UKNSCN please contact the coordinator [Ben Sykes](#) or visit the website [www.uknscn.org](http://www.uknscn.org).

## East of England Stem Cell Network



The East of England Stem Cell Network (EESCN) is a not-for-profit, membership

based company located in Cambridge, UK.

Founded in 2004, our aim is to help ensure that the greater Cambridge region (the East of England) prospers in terms of both patient benefit and economic output from the fields of stem cell biology and regenerative medicine.

Much of our activity involves facilitating interactions between the academic, clinical and commercial sectors at a regional, national and international level. We play an active role in outreach initiatives aimed at helping to "educate" the general public in the East of England as to the positive aspects of stem cell research

EESCN also liaises with regional experts on the legal, regulatory and ethical aspects of stem cells to ensure that the region's views in matters such as egg donation and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act are represented at national government level.

Membership of EESCN is free and open to everyone. For more information about stem cell science in Cambridge, or to join EESCN visit [www.eescn.org.uk](http://www.eescn.org.uk)

Jeanette Walker, Steering Group Member  
East of England Stem Cell Network  
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## Opportunities for Network Members

### International Travel Awards to Canada



The Stem Cell Network, Canada (SCN) is offering International Travel Awards for ICSCN senior PhDs and PDFs to:

attend and present their research at the SCN's Annual Scientific Conference (November 7-9, 2007 in Toronto, ON, Canada; <http://www.stemcellnetwork.ca/agm/>); and arrange visits to SCN labs. SCN will reimburse the costs of travel, accommodation and meals for awardees to participate in the conference and in lab visits for a total period of up to two weeks. There are 15 International Training Awards available per annum, and this year's application deadline is **July 31, 2007**.

Please visit the ICSCN website for the [guidelines](#) and [application form](#) or contact [Tia Moffat](#).

## Regional News

### German Ethics Committee Recommends Easing Stem Cell Restrictions

Research on human embryonic stem cells in Germany under the *Stem Cell Act* has been forbidden in general since 18 July 2002. The import of HESC lines is allowed as an exception for 'high-ranking' research projects. These cell lines have had to be established abroad from 'surplus' embryos before January 1, 2002.

The National Ethics Council presented its opinion on 17 July 07 after five years of experience with this regulation. 14 of the 24 members of this committee advocate for an amendment of the law to make stem cell research easier and allow the importation of newer stem cell lines.

The central goal of the *Stem Cell Act*, the prevention of any destruction of embryos, would be preserved by a case to case examination of any application for import of human embryonic stem cell lines from abroad. The Ethics council suggests substituting the cut-off date regulation for an individual case examination by the regulatory authority.

Human embryonic stem cell lines considered for the import to Germany should only be obtained from publicly available stem cell banks without the aim of realization of profit.

Additionally the majority of the members of the German National Ethics Council recommend lifting the threat of prosecution of German scientists. They refer to the *Embryo Protection Act*, where any participation in using embryos is under prosecution already.

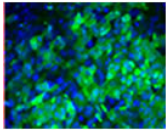
A third concern of the Ethics Council is the change of permission for the import of human embryonic stem cells not just for research but as well for diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic purposes.

For nine members of the committee however, there is no necessity in liberalisation of the German Stem Cell Act due to the lack of concrete therapy approaches.

Ira Hermann,  
Stem Cell Network, North Rhine Westphalia  
[herrmann@stammzellen.nrw.de](mailto:herrmann@stammzellen.nrw.de)

## International Stem Cell Forum

### *ISCI Stem Cell Registry Launch*



#### 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/naturebiotechnology).

## Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry

*Funded by the European  
Commission 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Research  
Programme*

**hESCreg**

The Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry ([www.hESCreg.eu](http://www.hESCreg.eu)) is a publicly accessible internet 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.

## ICSCN Members Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

### *Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia 4th Annual International Meeting*



Stem Cell Network  
North Rhine Westphalia

8-9 Oct, 2007 -  
Dusseldorf,  
Germany.

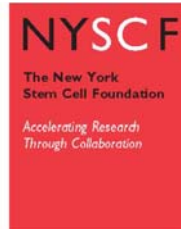
The 4th International Meeting will attract experts of international reputation including presentations of speakers such as Ron McKay and Stuart Orkin. This years meeting is focussing on **Cancer and Stem Cells** (presented i.e. by Luis Parada and Andreas Trumpp), **Regeneration and Aging** (with Nadia 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](http://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](http://www.nyscf.org)

### *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 and the full program please visit the [NESCI](http://www.nesci.org) website.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup>  
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](http://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](#) home page.

**New York Stem Cell Foundation Annual  
Conference**

October 15-16, 2007 - The Rockefeller University, New York City

Translational Stem Cell Research and Public Policy Panel

More information soon and details of last year's conference on the [NYSCF](#) website.

**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**

**Legislation and Regulation**

- **Global Regulation of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Oocyte Donation - Table of Global Regulations and Legislation, Compiled by the ICSCN**

The ICSCN has compiled for its members a table of global regulations, policies and organisations regarding human embryonic stem cell research. All members are free to use this table for their own purposes which can be found as a PDF on the [Consortium webpage](#).

- EuroStemCell Regulations in European Union member states, at: [http://www.eurostemcell.org/Documents/Outreach/stemcell\\_hesc\\_regulations\\_2007FEB.pdf](http://www.eurostemcell.org/Documents/Outreach/stemcell_hesc_regulations_2007FEB.pdf)
- ISSCR International Legislation on Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research, at: <http://www.isscr.org/public/regions/index.cfm>
- StemGen World Map 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](http://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](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**

- 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.
- The **RIKEN CDB** has created a brief animation to highlight some of the basic biological properties of stem cells, explain the different types of stem cell found in the embryonic body and the adult and illustrate the roles of these "master cells" in development and regeneration. View online on the [RIKEN](#) website.

- **A Stem Cell Story** - EuroStemCell public outreach film. An award winning, engaging, accessible and visually stunning introduction to the world of stem cell research. View online on the [EuroStemCell website](#).
- **ENGAGE: Stem Cells** is a high school teaching resource on stem cell research developed through the Ontario Genomics Institute (OGI) by Genome Canada, and the Joint Centre for Bioethics (JCB) at the University of Toronto and available to [download](#) from the Stem Cell Network, Canada website. The resource was developed in collaboration with teachers and students and has been distributed at no charge to high schools across Canada.
- The Australian Stem Cell Centre has developed a new website, [www.stemcellchannel.com.au](http://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](http://www.isscr.org)

Nature Reports Stem Cells:

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

[www.stemcellscience.org](http://www.stemcellscience.org)

[www.stemcells.net](http://www.stemcells.net)

[www.stemcellnews.com](http://www.stemcellnews.com)

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#### **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 below). 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 15 August 2007. Please email content and articles to the [Secretariat](#) by Monday 13 July 2007.

## Appendix 1 – Current ICSCN Members and Contact Details

Name	Network	Network Website	Email
Rebecca Skinner	Australian Stem Cell Centre	<a href="http://www.stemcellcentre.edu.au">www.stemcellcentre.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:Rebecca.Skinner@stemcellcentre.edu.au">Rebecca.Skinner@stemcellcentre.edu.au</a>
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Joeri Borstlap	Berlin-Brandenburg Center for Regenerative Medicine	<a href="http://www.cellnet.org">www.cellnet.org</a> <a href="http://www.hescreg.eu">www.hescreg.eu</a>	<a href="mailto:borstlap@cellnet.org">borstlap@cellnet.org</a>
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Nancy Witty	International Society for Stem Cell Research	<a href="http://www.isscr.org">www.isscr.org</a>	<a href="mailto:nwitty@isscr.org">nwitty@isscr.org</a>
Ryan Detwiler	International Society for Stem Cell Research	<a href="http://www.isscr.org">www.isscr.org</a>	<a href="mailto:rdetwiler@isscr.org">rdetwiler@isscr.org</a>
Rob Buckle	International Stem Cell Forum	<a href="http://www.stemcellforum.org.uk">www.stemcellforum.org.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:Robin.buckle@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk">Robin.buckle@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk</a>
Martin Cox	North East England Stem Cell Institute	<a href="http://www.nesci.ac.uk">www.nesci.ac.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:m.b.cox@ncl.ac.uk">m.b.cox@ncl.ac.uk</a>
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Carlos Simon	Scottish Stem Cell Network	<a href="http://www.sscn.co.uk">www.sscn.co.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:marilyn@sscn.co.uk">marilyn@sscn.co.uk</a>
Drew Lyall	Spanish Stem Cell Bank	<a href="http://www.choa.fib.es">www.choa.fib.es</a>	<a href="mailto:csimon@ivi.es">csimon@ivi.es</a>
Michael Rudnicki	Stem Cell Network Canada	<a href="http://www.stemcellnetwork.ca">www.stemcellnetwork.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:drew@stemcellnetwork.ca">drew@stemcellnetwork.ca</a>
Tia Moffat	Stem Cell Network Canada	<a href="http://www.stemcellnetwork.ca">www.stemcellnetwork.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:mrudnicki@ohri.ca">mrudnicki@ohri.ca</a>
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Sarah Fielding	Stem Cell Research Forum of India	<a href="http://www.scrfi.org">www.scrfi.org</a>	<a href="mailto:satish.t@manipalhospital.org">satish.t@manipalhospital.org</a>
Susan Solomon	The New York Stem Cell Foundation	<a href="http://www.nyscf.org">www.nyscf.org</a>	<a href="mailto:sfielding@nyscf.org">sfielding@nyscf.org</a>
Kevin Eggan	The New York Stem Cell Foundation	<a href="http://www.nyscf.org">www.nyscf.org</a>	<a href="mailto:ssolomon@nyscf.org">ssolomon@nyscf.org</a>
Ben Sykes	The New York Stem Cell Foundation	<a href="http://www.nyscf.org">www.nyscf.org</a>	<a href="mailto:eggan@mcb.harvard.edu">eggan@mcb.harvard.edu</a>
	UK National Stem Cell Network	<a href="http://www.uknscn.org">www.uknscn.org</a>	<a href="mailto:uksa@uknscn.org">uksa@uknscn.org</a>