



Welcome to the ICSCN update for November 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.

<http://www.icscn.wordpress.com>

**ICSCN Members**

- Australian Stem Cell Centre
- Bereshith – Israeli Consortium for Cell and Stem Cell Therapy
- 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

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**ICSCN Members Conference Report**

***NESCI-ICSCN International Conference on GMP Issues in Stem Cells***

Over 40 delegates from all over the world assembled in Newcastle, UK in



November for the ICSCN's International conference on GMP issues in stem cells. The conference, hosted by the North-East England Stem Cell Institute (NESCI) at the International Centre for Life in Newcastle, dealt with the range of issues confronting academics, clinicians and commercial organisations looking to take stem cell science to clinical application.

NESCI are setting up a series of email discussion networks as a consequence of this workshop, to allow the international stem cell community interested in GMP issues to debate some of the issues. To join, send email details to Martin Cox, manager of NESCI ([m.b.cox@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:m.b.cox@ncl.ac.uk)).

The only problem with the conference was that most delegates felt it was a very useful start but would like another one! Anyone interested in hosting something next year?

The full conference report can be read here: [GMP Issues in Stem Cells Conference Report](#)

### SSCN - Biology and Use of Cord Blood

Held in Glasgow on 30 October 2007, the SSCN held this meeting to address a number of aspects of the use of cord blood in the lab and in the clinic. The meeting was complimented by a public outreach event which introduced the new public Cord Blood Bank for Scotland. The bank which will be run by the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service which has secured £750,000 of government funding to run the bank.

The full meeting report can be read here: [The Biology and Use of Cord Blood Meeting Report](#)

<http://www.sscn.co.uk/>

### ICSCN Launches New Website

The ICSCN Joint Secretariat launched a new website this week: <http://www.icscn.wordpress.com>. The website, which uses blog technology, provides useful information relating to the consortium's 16 Networks, and is intended to be the primary go-to place for members around the globe to access this information.

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](#), [Tia Moffat](#), [Ira Herrmann](#), [Marilyn Robertson](#)).

### ICSCN Members' Upcoming Conferences and Events

#### *hESreg Launch and 1<sup>st</sup> European Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry (hESCreg) Symposium*



18-19 January, 2008,  
Berlin, Germany

The European Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry – hESCreg – will be launched and presented publicly on January 18-19, 2008, in Berlin. On this occasion, the first hESCreg symposium “State-of-the-art in hESC Research, European hESC Policy and International Harmonization” will take place. Central issues of this first in a series of events will be standardization, harmonisation and regulation

of hESC research and application. The main focus will be on improvements to the reproducibility of research results obtained in different research settings. These issues are essential for potentially sensitive future applications in drug development and therapy. The symposium will consist of plenary lectures and workshops and will be accompanied by a press conference on the launch of hESCreg. Following the international portion of the event, a dedicated workshop with German hESC researchers will be held. This workshop is aimed at the cooperation between German hESC research and hESCreg.

Please register online at [www.hescreg.eu](http://www.hescreg.eu) until **December 15, 2007**. Registration is free, however, places are limited. If you would like to know more about the event, please contact Joeri Borstlap at [launch@hescreg.eu](mailto:launch@hescreg.eu).

#### 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 & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**



9-10 June, 2008  
Bangalore and Delhi, India

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

## **ISSCR News**

### **ISSCR jointly presented Shanghai International Symposium on Stem Cell Research**

More than 300 scientists gathered in Shanghai for the opening of the 2007 Shanghai International Symposium on Stem Cell Research, jointly organized by the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), and the Shanghai Institutes of Biological Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences (SIBS/CAS) and other research institutes in China.

For the first time, the ISSCR has added its name to a conference other than its own annual meeting. The ISSCR embraces this opportunity to learn more about research that is happening in China and to provide a platform for local Chinese researchers who do not have the opportunity to travel internationally each year to the ISSCR Annual Meeting.

The line-up featured an exciting mix of invited speakers, with 30 international guests and 30 stem cell biologists residing in China. The ISSCR

delegation included George Q. Daley (President), Nancy Witty (Executive Director), Alan Colman (Chair, Governmental Affairs Committee), Douglas Sipp (Chair, International Committee), Toshio Suda (Publications Committee) and Jeremy Sugarman (Taskforce on Clinical Translation of Stem Cells). The Keynote address was given by Dr John Gearhart (Founding Member of the Board of Directors).

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

## **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.** Send your nominations to Nancy Witty, ISSCR Executive Director, [nwitty@isscr.org](mailto:nwitty@isscr.org).



### **6<sup>th</sup> ISSCR Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, June 11-14, 2008**

**Abstract submission has opened!** Submit your abstract before Feb. 7, 2008. ISSCR members have been e-mailed their abstract submission account information; new members or non-members will need to create an account log-in. New this year: you will be asked to select keywords that best describe your research to allow efficient grouping of posters and a simpler method to search abstracts. For more information on abstract submission visit the ISSCR Web site or contact Michael Hagedorn ([mhagedorn@isscr.org](mailto:mhagedorn@isscr.org); +1-847-509-1944).

**Travel Grants.** The ISSCR will again award fellowships to assist with travel to attend the annual meeting. Travel grant applications must be completed as part of the abstract submission process. You will need to be a current member and submit an abstract to be eligible for a travel grant. During abstract submission you will need to check the appropriate box for travel grant application and also provide a short paragraph (200 words maximum) explaining your economic

need. All travel awardees must register for the annual meeting.

**Industry Wednesday Symposia, Philadelphia, June 11, 2008.** In 2008, the 6th ISSCR Annual Meeting will be directly preceded by industry symposia on stem cell research hosted by leading industry representatives. All ISSCR meeting attendees are invited to attend. The symposia will offer a range of industry-directed programs and highlight important issues and directions in the stem cell field from an industry perspective. For more information on participating, visit the ISSCR Web site or contact Ryan Detwiler, [rdetwiler@isscr.org](mailto:rdetwiler@isscr.org).

## Other Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

*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](#).

*January, 2008*

### First International Symposium on Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research (FISH)

31. January- 2 February, 2008

Evry (Paris area), France

Registration deadline: January 21, 2008

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

*February, 2008*

### Stem Cells World Congress

11-12 February, 2008

Palm Springs California

Abstract and poster deadline: 7 January 2008

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

### 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

### 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](http://www.hfsp.org).

### UK Technology Strategy Board Cell Therapy Competition for Funding

The Technology Strategy Board has allocated an indicative amount of £10 million to fund highly innovative collaborative research proposals in Cell Therapy. The registration of intent to submit deadline is 11 January 2008. Please visit the [website](#) for further details.

### The Royal Society Conference Grants Scheme

Supports UK-based scientists working at a post-doctoral level or above to either present their own work or chair a session at an overseas conference.



[Click here for more information](#).

### National Blood Foundation

The [National Blood Foundation](#) awards grants annually for research that advances transfusion medicine and related biological therapies. This includes aspects of immunology, hematology, tissue and transplantation medicine, cellular therapies and related biological therapies, emerging infectious disease, immunohematology, donor health and recruitment and retention, and implementation of technological devices.

### Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

As the leading charitable funder of diabetes research worldwide, JDRF offers a wide variety of grants and fellowships to qualified researchers. For award descriptions and deadline guide, [click here](#).

### **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.

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## **Regional News**

### **Initiative for Excellence in Germany**

By promoting top-class university research within the framework of the Initiative for Excellence, the Federal Government is aiming to establish internationally visible research beacons in Germany. 1.9 billion Euro will be made available to the institutions of higher education within the framework of the Initiative for Excellence. The Federal Government will contribute 75% of this sum. In October 2007 the successful institution of the second round had been announced. Universities who had been selected within the context of 'Future concepts for top-class research at universities' are: RWTH Aachen, Free University Berlin, Humboldt-University Berlin, University Bochum, University Freiburg, University Goettingen, University Heidelberg and University Konstanz. Further information is available at the website of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

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## **ICSCN Administration News**

### **Statutes and Membership Guidelines**

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

### **ICSCN Logo and Brand**

All ICSCN members are encouraged to use the ICSCN logo and brand events ICSCN events where appropriate. If you require a copy of the logo please email the Secretariat. Members are also encouraged to put the logo on their own websites and place links to the ICSCN site and to the newsletters.

## **Articles and Links of Interest**

### **Blogs**

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](http://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](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 '[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.

**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.

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

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

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

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### **Next Month**

The next newsletter is due out mid December. Please email content and articles to [Rebecca Skinner](#) by Friday, 14 December 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>
Stephen Livesey	Australian Stem Cell Centre	<a href="http://www.stemcellcentre.edu.au">www.stemcellcentre.edu.au</a>	<a href="mailto:Stephen.Livesey@stemcellcentre.edu.au">Stephen.Livesey@stemcellcentre.edu.au</a>
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Iris Lewin	Bereshith – Israeli Consortium for cell and stem cell therapy	na	<a href="mailto:amigo_lewin@bezeqint.net">amigo_lewin@bezeqint.net</a>
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>
Arlene Chiu	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine	<a href="http://www.cirm.ca.gov">www.cirm.ca.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:achiu@cirm.ca.gov">achiu@cirm.ca.gov</a>
Patricia Olson	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine	<a href="http://www.cirm.ca.gov">www.cirm.ca.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:polson@cirm.ca.gov">polson@cirm.ca.gov</a>
Jeanette Walker	East of England Stem Cell Network	<a href="http://www.eescn.org.uk">www.eescn.org.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:jeanettewalker@erbi.co.uk">jeanettewalker@erbi.co.uk</a>
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>
Michael Whitaker	North East England Stem Cell Institute	<a href="http://www.nesci.ac.uk">www.nesci.ac.uk</a>	<a href="mailto:michael.whitaker@ncl.ac.uk">michael.whitaker@ncl.ac.uk</a>
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Doug Sipp	RIKEN Centre for Developmental Biology (CDB)	<a href="http://www.cdb.riken.go.jp">www.cdb.riken.go.jp</a> <a href="http://www.isscr.org">www.isscr.org</a>	<a href="mailto:sipp@cdb.riken.go.jp">sipp@cdb.riken.go.jp</a>
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Drew Lyall	Spanish Stem Cell Bank	<a href="http://www.ochoa.fib.es">www.ochoa.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>
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Ira Herrmann	Stem Cell Network, Canada	<a href="http://www.stammzellen.nrw.de">www.stammzellen.nrw.de</a>	<a href="mailto:sophie@stemcellnetwork.ca">sophie@stemcellnetwork.ca</a>
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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:solomon@nyscf.org">solomon@nyscf.org</a>
	UK National Stem Cell Network	<a href="http://www.uknscn.org">www.uknscn.org</a>	<a href="mailto:eggan@mcb.harvard.edu">eggan@mcb.harvard.edu</a>
			<a href="mailto:uksa@uknscn.org">uksa@uknscn.org</a>