



Welcome to the ICSCN update for September 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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Postdoctoral Position in Functional Stem Cell Biology - Bonn, Germany

The LIFE & BRAIN Center on the University of Bonn Medical Campus is a newly established research and development facility comprising academic institutes and translational units with more than 130 scientists. A key focus of LIFE & BRAIN is stem cell research. We are particularly interested in the molecular mechanisms of human embryonic stem cell differentiation into neural cells and their application in artificial network formation, disease modelling and tissue repair.

Based on established expertise in mouse and human ES cell biology, animal models and functional analysis of neural cells we seek to expand our research activities towards functional stem cell biology.

We are looking for a highly motivated postdoctoral fellow with experience in electrophysiology and a strong interest in developing a stem cell physiology-based research program.

The successful applicant will have access to established state-of-the-art single cell and integrative neurophysiological techniques and work in close interaction with stem cell biologists at the Institute of Reconstructive Neurobiology (Prof. Oliver Brüstle) and stem cell physiologists at the Institute of Physiology I (Prof. Bernd Fleischmann).

Please visit www.stemcells.uni-bonn.de or download the [PDF](#) for full information on applying.

Stem Cell Network, Canada



Training Award Competition Results

The Stem Cell Network (SCN) sincerely thanks

all ICSCN members who forwarded applications for the following awards, and is pleased to announce the results of the competitions.

hESC Culture Training Course

The following ICSCN trainees have been accepted into the SCN hESC Culture Training Course, taking place in Toronto September 17-20:

New York Stem Cell Foundation

Nichole Diaz

North East England Stem Cell Institute

Christian Mueller

Stem Cell Research Forum of India

Kanchan Sarda

International Travel Awards

The following ICSCN trainees have been awarded an International Travel Award to attend the SCN Annual General Meeting and participate in SCN lab visits and workshops:

North East England Stem Cell Institute

Ali Aldibbiat, Michael Cooke, Jae Ho Lee

Scottish Stem Cell Network

Andrew Childs

Bereshith; Israeli Consortium for Cell and Stem Cell Therapy

Lilach Lifshitz, Gabi Shefer

Australian Stem Cell Centre

Tung-Liang Chung, Jochen Grassinger,

Nicholas Hannan, Steven Jackson,

Christopher Siatkas

Congratulations to the successful applicants! This is the first year these awards have been offered, and SCN is planning on running further competitions in 2008.

Enhancing Collaborations within the ICSCN

Draft Framework for Fellowships, Exchange and Travel Grants

Following on from the success of the Canadian 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 by mid-November. By this time also the new ICSCN

website will be active providing greater visibility and ability for members to share information and opportunities.

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 year's 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

NYSCF

The New York
Stem Cell Foundation

Accelerating Research
Through Collaboration

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

The Biology and Use of Cord Blood

SSCN  scottish stem
cell network

Glasgow, Tuesday 30th October 2007

Organised and chaired by Dr Joanne Mountford, this meeting promises a valuable insight into the clinical and operational aspects of cord blood banking. Have a look at the [programme](#) and [register](#) now.

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

15-16 November, 2007, Newcastle UK

**Registration
Confirmations
Due Now**



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](#) 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.

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.

Apology: the ICSCN would like to apologise for editing the ISSCR article in last months newsletter without prior permission. The article in full is published above as originally intended.

Regional News

CIRM Appoints Australian President

On Friday 14 September the CIRM made the announcement that Professor Alan Trounson, 61, director of the Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories in Melbourne and a founder of the Australian Stem Cell Centre, would be the new president of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

Professor Trounson helped derive some of the earliest human embryonic stem cell lines in the late 1990s. His appointment was approved late Friday by the stem cell program's board of directors after a meeting, ending a months long search. Board members said Dr. Trounson's mix of scientific and business experience was an important factor in his selection.

For more information see the [California Stem Cell Report](#)

EU Gives Ethics Review of FP7 Projects

The European Group on Ethics (EGE) has delivered its most recent opinion to Commission President, looking at the issues of ethics reviews of research projects using human embryonic stem cells. The opinion was based on the Council and Parliament Decision that sets up the programme. The EGE recognised the need to promote responsible research that is transparent, serves the public interest, respects Member States' autonomy, preserves public trust, promotes international cooperation and requires the embedding of ethics within research practice. The Group suggested that, among others, the following considerations have to apply to hESC funded by the EU: 1) FP7 hESC lines have to result from non-implanted IVF embryos; 2) hESC lines banked in the European Registry should be used where possible; 3) If alternatives to hESC with the same scientific potential as embryo-derived stem cells will be found in the future, their use should be maximised; 4) Donors' rights (in terms of health, informed consent, data protection and free donation) have to be protected and safeguarded; 5) actions to stimulate public debate on this research area are needed at EU level.

The full opinion plus a comprehensive overview of hESC regulations in the EU can be found on the [EGE website](#).

UK Approves Human-Animal Hybrids for Stem Cell Research

The U.K. Human Fertilisation and Embryo Authority ([HFEA](#)) have approved the creation of some human-animal hybrids for stem cell research. The HFEA has given in-principle approval to allow the creation of cytoplasmic hybrids and will now consider applications to conduct the work from scientists at Newcastle University and King's College, London. A decision is due in November.

In their decision, they said:

“Having looked at all the evidence the Authority has decided that there is no fundamental reason to prevent cytoplasmic hybrid research. However, public opinion is very finely divided with people generally opposed to this research unless it is tightly regulated and it is likely to lead to scientific or medical advancements.”

EU-funded Stem Cell Consortia call for Equal Opportunities

Scientists, participating in the EU funded stem cell projects ESTOOLS and EuroStemCells, made a [statement](#) on the 26th of July calling for activities that would "remove political and legislative barriers that hinder collective research to realise the potential of stem cell research for the benefit of European citizens". The paper was directed, in particular, towards the governments of Italy and Germany. The heterogeneity of the national legal frameworks for stem cell research interfere with the exchange of ideas and scientific personnel, thereby delaying developments in biomedical and therapeutical

The August edition of new journal [Cell Stem Cell](#) features an article co-authored by Prof Oliver Brüstle of the Stem Cell Network, North Rhine Westphalia and other members of the Consortia outlining the outcomes of the meeting *Ethical Aspects of Stem Cell Research in Europe*. They argue that international heterogeneity in stem cell politics and legislation must be overcome in order to develop this field toward biomedical application.

International Funding Opportunities

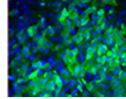
American Australian Association Fellowships

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. For more information please visit www.americanaustralian.org/educational

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.



ISCI
Stem Cell
Characterisation
Initiative

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.

Stem Cell Banking and Registries

International Stem Cell Forum ISCI Stem Cell Registry

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](#).

[Nature Reports Stem Cells](#) is also featuring an article on ISCI by Dr Peter Andrews, University of Sheffield, and the coordinator of the project. The next phase of ISCI is now underway, with \$2m from the ISCF to evaluate media and track chromosomal abnormalities. The next scientific meeting is occurring mid October.

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 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.

hESCreg

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](#). 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 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.

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](#).

Conferences

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 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.

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 '**Hinxton 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

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 19 October 2007. Please email content and articles to [Tia Moffat](#) at the Stem Cell Network, Canada by Monday 15 October 2007.

Appendix 1 – Current ICSCN Members and Contact Details

Name	Network	Network Website	Email
Rebecca Skinner	Australian Stem Cell Centre	www.stemcellcentre.edu.au	Rebecca.Skinner@stemcellcentre.edu.au
Stephen Livesey	Australian Stem Cell Centre	www.stemcellcentre.edu.au	Stephen.Livesey@stemcellcentre.edu.au
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Iris Lewin	Bereshith – Israeli Consortium for cell and stem cell therapy	na	amigo_lewin@bezeqint.net
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Patricia Olson	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine	www.cirm.ca.gov	polson@cirm.ca.gov
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