



Welcome to the ICSCN update for March 2009.

This newsletter is 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, place a link on their websites and contribute news and updates for future newsletters and the website.

**Contents for March 2009**

**ICSCN Members**

- Australian Stem Cell Centre
- Bereshith – Israeli Consortium for Cell and Stem Cell Therapy
- East of England Stem Cell Network
- International Society for Stem Cell Research
- International Stem Cell Forum
- Israel Stem Cell Society
- New South Wales Stem Cell Network
- New York Stem Cell Foundation
- North East England Stem Cell Institute
- Norwegian Centre for Stem Cell Research
- Regenerative Medicine Initiative Germany - RMIG
- California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
- RIKEN Centre for Developmental Biology
- Scottish Stem Cell Network
- Spanish Stem Cell Bank
- Stem Cell Network Asia Pacific
- Stem Cell Network North Rhine Westphalia
- Stem Cell Network, Canada
- UK National Stem Cell Network

ICSCN Barcelona 2009 ..... 1  
 ISSCR 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting..... 2  
 Member News..... 2  
 International News..... 3  
 ISSCR News ..... 3  
 ICSCN Administration News..... 3  
 Articles and Links of Interest ..... 3  
 Next Newsletter ..... 4

**ICSCN Barcelona 2009**

**ICSCN Meeting and Post-Doc Symposium**

The next ICSCN meeting is to be held in Barcelona in 2009 in concurrence with the ISSCR 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The date and venue are yet to be determined but the ICSCN secretariat group are working with our Spanish colleagues to finalise the arrangements.

As you will recall at our last meeting in Philadelphia we agreed to hold a small symposium for leading post-docs from our Networks (max two per Network) immediately prior to ISSCR in Barcelona. The intent was to network some of our young “stars” at an early point in their career. We are delighted to let you know that the ICSCN steering committee has now organised this event, and the attached notice sets out preliminary details. Further details of exact location will follow in the next couple of weeks.

In the meantime, if your Network wishes to participate in this inaugural symposium, then you need to do the following:

1. Provide an indication to Drew Lyall ([dlyall@stemcellnetwork.ca](mailto:dlyall@stemcellnetwork.ca)) as soon as possible confirming if you plan to send 0, 1 or 2 PDFs to the event, and
2. By not later than May 31<sup>st</sup>, provide to me the names, institutions and short abstracts from your participants. Each network is free to chose whatever method they want to select their PDF representatives.

As we only have space for 20 participants and a very short timeline, we will be allocating the places on a first come, first served basis. In addition the ICSCN will this year run a junior postdoctoral networking event whereby the top junior post-docs or students from each network will meet for one day and present their work to each other. This will be an excellent opportunity for these junior researchers to build networks that they can utilise throughout their careers.

## ISSCR 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Register today for the ISSCR 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, July 8-11, 2009 in Barcelona, Spain. The meeting promises three-and-a-half days of outstanding stem cell science including 58 invited speakers from 17 countries, eight plenary and three concurrent sessions and ample time to network with colleagues from around the globe. For more information and to register online, visit [www.isscr.org/meetings](http://www.isscr.org/meetings).

## Member News

### *East of England Stem Cell Network*

EESCN's Steering Group member Brian Salter, Professor of Politics of Biomedicine and Director of the Global Biopolitics Research Group in the Centre for Biomedicine and Society at King's College London has published a new book called "[The Global Politics of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Science](#)" which covers topics from legislation to globalisation and stem cell markets.

The EESCN has launched a new website which can be viewed at <http://www.eescn.org.uk/>

### *Germany*

#### **5th International Meeting in North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany**

The 5th International Meeting of the Stem Cell Network NRW will take place on 24 – 25 March 2009 at the Eurogress, situated in the historic city centre of Aachen, Germany. We are expecting more than 600 delegates from Germany and abroad for our two-day congress.

Collaborative work with researchers from the Priority Program of the German Research Foundation has inspired the organizers to focus the 2009 congress on "Reprogramming". Further topics will be "Differentiation", "Cancer Stem Cells" and "Therapeutic Devices". Among confirmed speakers are: Markus Grompe, John Gurdon, Maarten van Lohuizen, Alexander Meissner, Christine Mummery, Huck-Hui Ng, Andreas Trumpp and Miodrag Stojkovic. Further details and registration at: [www.congress.stemcells.nrw.de](http://www.congress.stemcells.nrw.de)

#### **PhD Program Regenerative Sciences**

In October 2007 the PhD program 'Regenerative Sciences' started. The PhD program was developed as part of the cluster of excellence REBIRTH - 'From Regenerative Biology to Reconstructive Therapy'. The interdisciplinary program integrates all scientific and technological disciplines that are relevant for regenerative

medicine. At the same time the PhD program Regenerative Sciences is integrated in the Graduate School of Excellence HBRS - Hannover Biomedical Research School.

[Online](#) applications for the program starting in October 2009 will be accepted from December 2008 until April 1, 2009.

### *UK National Stem Cell Network*

#### **2009 UKNSCN Annual Science Meeting**

On-line registration is now open for UKNSCN's second annual science meeting taking place on 6-8 April 2009 at the University of Oxford Examination Schools. Please follow the hyperlink below to the UKNSCN website for further information. Approximately 500 delegate places are available, and registration is open to delegates from overseas:

<http://www.uknscn.org/meetings/meetings09.html>.

#### **Stem Cell Patent Digest**

The UKNSCN has embarked upon a pilot project to provide the community with regular (two-monthly) digests of both published and granted patents in the stem cell field. The first two-month report covering November and December 2008 is available below. Future digests will be dependent upon the community's feedback on this first report, and will appear on the UKNSCN website.

- [Patent report - November/December 2008](#) (PDF 207KB)

### *Australia*

#### **Australia and New Zealand Establish Stem Cell Society**

The **Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research (ASSCR)** was established in the early part of 2008, following interest from a number of Australasian stem cell researchers at the ISSCR meeting held in Cairns in 2007. The ASSCR promotes stem cell biology and therapies in Australia and New Zealand. For more information about the ASSCR, please visit the website at [www.asscr.org](http://www.asscr.org), or email at [info@asscr.org](mailto:info@asscr.org).

#### **ASCC Pluripotent Cell Training Course**

The ASCC offers laboratory-based training courses to investigators wanting to learn how to isolate, maintain, propagate, manipulate, differentiate and analyse embryonic and adult stem cells. The next human embryonic stem cell training workshops will be held in Brisbane March 13-23 (7 half days) and in Melbourne (4 full days) June 1 - 4, 2009. Visit the ASCC [website](#) for more information.

## International News

### *hESCreg*

One year on: hESCreg holds detailed records on 600 hESC lines

The European Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry - hESCreg, which became operational and went online one year ago, to date holds comprehensive information on 600 hESC lines that have been derived in Europe and worldwide. The database is publicly accessible at [www.hescreg.eu](http://www.hescreg.eu)

### *University of Massachusetts International Stem Cell Registry*

The University of Massachusetts International Stem Cell Registry is now live. Its mission is to provide a searchable, comprehensive database that includes published and validated unpublished information on all human ES cell lines as well as other pluripotent stem cell lines.

The goal is to offer current information on all known human ES cell lines, including those approved by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for federal funding and those derived through other public or private funding sources. The registry will include cell lines from non-profit institutions, academic centers, research enterprises, stem cell banks and industry based in the United States and abroad. Use the registry at [www.umassmed.edu/iscr](http://www.umassmed.edu/iscr)

### *World Stem Cell Summit, 2009*

**21-23 September 2009, Baltimore, Maryland.**

Presented by the Genetics Policy Institute (GPI), the 2009 Summit is hosted by Johns Hopkins University, the University System of Maryland, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, Maryland Technology and Development Corporation and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

The World Stem Cell Summit brings together the stem cell universe to chart the future of regenerative medicine. [Learn More.](#)

To view the webcast of the 2008 summit, click [here](#) or go to [www.worldstemcellsummit.com](http://www.worldstemcellsummit.com)

---

## ISSCR News

### *ISSCR Calls for Adherence to Recent Guidelines*

The ISSCR has released a [statement](#) expressing their concern about the recent report of nervous

system tumours that developed in a child who had previously received injections of cell preparations referred to as "neural stem cells." The ISSCR said that this illustrates the concerns that prompted the ISSCR to develop [Guidelines for the Clinical Translation of Stem Cells](#), released in December 2008. The Guidelines and accompanying [Patient Handbook on Stem Cell Therapies](#) are available on the ISSCR website.

---

## ICSCN Administration News

### *ICSCN Website*

The ICSCN Joint Secretariat launched a new website late in 2007: [www.stemcellconsortium.org](http://www.stemcellconsortium.org). The website, which uses blog technology, provides useful information relating to the consortium's 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](#), [Drew Lyall](#), [Ira Herrmann](#), [Marilyn Robertson](#)).

### *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 and Commentary*

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

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

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

## 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.

Detailed [regulations](#) in EU member's states can be found on the EU's 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)

[ISSCR Guidelines](#) for the Conduct of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research.

## Public Outreach Tools

[Stem Cell Resources](#) is a website dedicated to public education. It is a fantastic resource for teachers, students and the interested public.

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.

## 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)

## Next Newsletter

The next newsletter is due mid May. Please email content and articles to the Secretariat by 1 May 2009.