

UKNSCN Delivery Plan 2010-2011

Purpose

The following one-year Delivery Plan covers the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011 and continues to deliver the UKNSCN Corporate Plan 2008-2011. Its proposed activities recognise all the stakeholders in UK stem cell science and its related disciplines, and reinforce the potential of stem cell research and the UK's enviable position to deliver future therapies. This document is a working document under continuous review by the UKNSCN Advisory Committee and Management Board.

UKNSCN Governance

Role of the Management Board

The UKNSCN Management Board currently comprises eight organisations – the four sponsoring Councils (BBSRC, MRC, EPSRC, ESRC) plus representatives from the Department of Health (DH), the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), and the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC). In addition, Management Board meetings are attended by the Executive Director and the Chairman of the UKNSCN Advisory Committee (see below). The Management Board is responsible for high-level strategic decision-making and the allocation of budgets to agreed activities, with criteria. In addition, it is responsible for policy formation and corporate planning, and for supervising the work of the UKNSCN's Executive Director. The membership of the Management Board is listed below.

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC - Chair)

Medical Research Council (MRC)
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)
Department of Health (DH)
Technology Strategy Board (TSB)
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

Role of the Executive Director

The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Network's operations and for delivering the activities detailed in the UKNSCN's Delivery Plan. He is responsible for the interpretation of policy and lower-level decision-making between Management Board meetings, exercising judgment in the deferral of decisions to the Board, delivery planning and the oversight of Network administrative staff. The Executive Director is expected to take and seek advice from the UKNSCN's Advisory Committee.

Role of the Advisory Committee

The UKNSCN Advisory Committee comprises 21 members including the Chair, appointed by the Network's sponsors against an expertise template covering a wide range of stakeholders in stem cell science. The Advisory Committee exists to represent the community's view on activities which the UKNSCN should and should not undertake within its Delivery Plans, and to advise the Executive Director and Management Board accordingly. Appointments to the Advisory Committee are made initially for one year, and the Committee meets on average three times per year. The current membership of the Advisory Committee is provided at **Annex 2**.

What the UKNSCN Will Deliver in 2010/11

A graphic representation of the following 23 projects (with timescales and staff resource implications) is available in the GANTT chart at **Annex 1**.

1. Conference and Meetings

- ◆ Third annual science meeting in July 2010
- ◆ Fourth annual science meeting in March 2011
- ◆ On-going four-monthly meetings of the UKNSCN Advisory Committee
- ◆ Representation of the UKNSCN at the 2010 meeting of the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR)
- ◆ Representation of the UKNSCN at the 2011 meeting of the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR)
- ◆ International workshop on progress towards clinical trials using stem cells in motor neurone disease, in conjunction with the Canadian Stem Cell Network and other members of the International Consortium of Stem Cell Networks (ICSCN), to be held in New York in January 2011
- ◆ Planning for a UK-Israel bilateral workshop on stem cells and regenerative medicine, in conjunction with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- ◆ Programme of one-day UKNSCN workshops to facilitate discussion on key issues arising from the UKNSCN Commercialisation Working Group report, starting with raising awareness of the regulatory roadmap for advanced therapy medicinal products
- ◆ *Ad hoc* meetings and seminars as opportunities arise, in collaboration with organisations such as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI).
- ◆ Planning for a public engagement meeting (*'Stem Cell Roadshow'*)

2. Communication and Information (including Public Dialogue)

- ◆ Production of electronic events bulletins every month for circulation to the UKNSCN correspondence list (currently 2000-strong), and additional interim bulletins as necessary to ensure that UKNSCN is responsive to events

- ◆ Provision of educational materials such as glossaries and concept definitions in the form of lay summaries available via the UKNSCN website
- ◆ Further development of the UKNSCN publicity folder with the addition of information from more loosely-aggregated stem cell networks in the UK
- ◆ Further development of the information content of the UKNSCN website
- ◆ Development of a searchable contacts and expertise database (Excel spreadsheet) based on the UKNSCN membership, for in-house use.
- ◆ Production of a 2-3-page lay summary of the state-of-the-art in stem cell science and translation as a web-based information resource for the media and general public, in collaboration with the Stem Cell Communications Coalition.
- ◆ Expansion of the number of UKNSCN Position Statements made available via the UKNSCN website, to complement that produced on stem cell tourism
- ◆ Provision and maintenance of a web-based information resource on clinical trials involving stem cells
- ◆ Provision and maintenance of a web-based listing of current companies operating in (a) stem cells, and (b) wider regenerative medicine
- ◆ Provision of regular information on scientific highlights from journals and grant funding bodies as part of the monthly electronic bulletin
- ◆ Enhancement of the library of hyperlinks to other organisations available via the UKNSCN website, including in particular sites which enable members to follow the evolving ethical debate surrounding stem cells and their applications.

3. Service Provision

- ◆ Patent-watching: continue to provide a two-monthly digest for the community of new patents published in stem cell research
- ◆ Informal UKNSCN small collaborative awards scheme to assist organisers of national-level meetings in stem cell science and translation which cross disciplines; £15k per annum budget, with typical allocations of up to £1.5k per request

4. Collaboration

- ◆ Continue to collaborate with overseas organisations and Networks to share best practice and provide the first point of contact for overseas researchers seeking UK research partners; these include the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), members of the International Consortium of Stem Cell Networks (ICSCN) and the Science and Innovation Network (SIN) of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

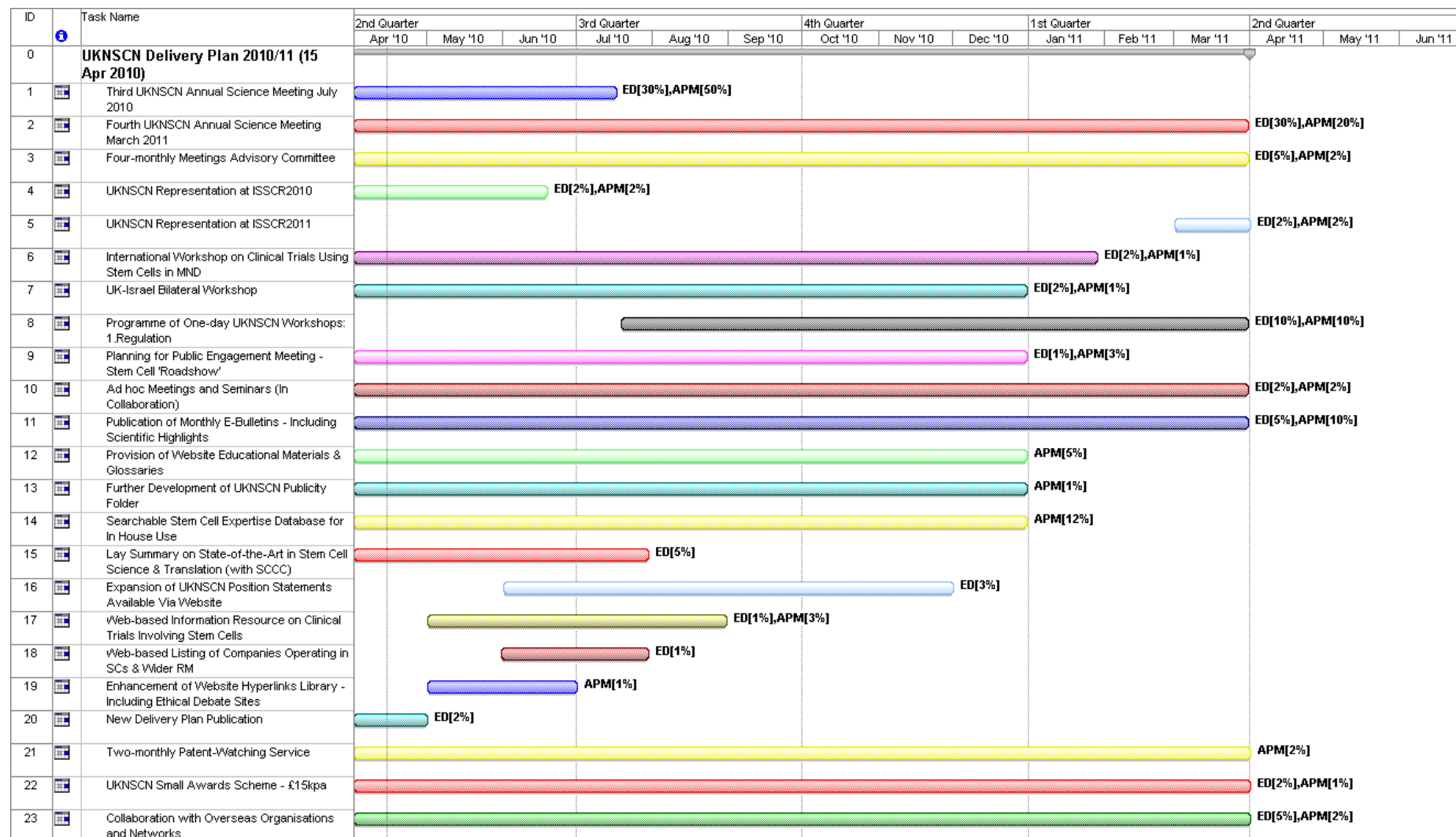
5. Staffing

- ◆ Financial support for the Executive Director (ED) and Assistant Programme Manager (APM) as the current full-time salaried appointments within UKNSCN

Costs

The overall cost of this delivery plan to 31 March 2011 is estimated to be £280k, inclusive of staff costs.

PROJECT PLANNING CHART: 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011



Key: ED – Executive Director; APM – Assistant Programme Manager

MEMBERSHIP OF THE UKNSCN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010

Expertise Seat	Member and Affiliation
Chair	Cathy Prescott, Biolatris Ltd
Adult stem cells	Jon Frampton, University of Birmingham
Embryonic stem cells	Melanie Welham, University of Bath
Animal models	Josh Brickman, University of Edinburgh
Pluripotent stem cells	Lorraine Young, University of Nottingham
Developmental biology	Paul Riley, University College London
Regenerative and translational medicine	Anthony Hollander, University of Bristol
Clinician	Nagy Habib, Imperial College London
Clinician/scientist	Neil Hanley, University of Manchester
Process engineer	Alicia El Haj, Keele University
Tissue engineering and stem cells	Richard Oreffo, University of Southampton
Industry (SME)	Peter Raymond, Medcell
Industry (large pharma)	Tim Allsopp, Pfizer Regenerative Medicine
Industry (business and investment)	Cathy Prescott, Biolatris Ltd
Industry (technology provider)	John Meech, Thermofisher Scientific
Legal, intellectual property	Gerry Kamstra, Bird and Bird LLP
Social science	Brian Salter, King's College London
Social science	Andrew Webster, University of York
Ethics and philosophy	Ruth Chadwick, University of Wales, Cardiff
Lay person	Shirley Nurock, Alzheimer's Society
Regulation	Ian Rees, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
Patient group	Sophie Petit-Zeman, Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)