



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the twenty-fifth news and events bulletin issued by the UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN). The bulletin ([scroll down](#)) now includes internal hyperlinks which allow you to jump straight to articles and events which may be of particular interest to you. UKNSCN welcomes your feedback on this enhanced format. These bulletins are circulated every month and are also posted in PDF format on the events section of the UKNSCN website - see <http://www.uknscn.org/events/index.html>. These communications are complemented by more formal UKNSCN Newsletters which are also available to download from the website. You have received this communication by virtue of your inclusion in the UKNSCN's correspondence list, which UKNSCN operates in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

If you do not wish to be included in this correspondence list, please reply to this message and your E-mail address will be removed. The E-mail correspondence list continues to grow rapidly - it currently stands at around **1950** individuals, covering the following diversity of stakeholders: academics (of many disciplines), industrialists, charities, learned societies, professional associations, lawyers, venture capitalists, regulatory bodies, journalists, MPs and government and Research Council officials. UKNSCN requests that you forward this message to interested colleagues who might not have received it and who may wish to then request that their E-mail address is included. If you wish to contribute items to the next bulletin, issue 26 will be circulated on **25 March 2010**. Thank you.

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#### **NEWS**

##### **UPDATE ON UKNSCN THIRD ANNUAL SCIENCE MEETING 2010 – ON-LINE REGISTRATION OPEN AND PLACES FILLING**

You are reminded that this year's UKNSCN Annual Scientific Meeting will take place from **12-14 July 2010** at the University of Nottingham's East Midlands Conference Centre (EMCC). [On-line registration for the conference is now open](#), where you can also view the full conference programme. The attached conference poster provides a snapshot of what you can expect at this year's conference. There are 520 delegate places available in plenary, so you are advised to register early. Whilst the conference remains a celebration of UK stem cell science, there will be a few more presentations from overseas researchers than there have been previously. The confirmed programme includes luminaries such as Nissim Benvenisty (Israel), David Warburton (USA), Marc Peschanski (France), Lorenz Studer (USA) and Ivan Martin (Switzerland). The prestigious **Dame Anne McLaren Memorial Lecture** on day 1 will be delivered by Fiona Watt from the Wellcome Trust Centre for Stem Cell Research in Cambridge. The programme also includes another series of parallel workshops (8 in total) which will take place on days 2 and 3 of the conference, covering the areas listed below. You may sign up for one of Workshops A-D on day 2, and one of Workshops E-H on day 3, during the on-line registration process. Places are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and will be restricted to 80 people in all but two cases where the main conference auditorium can be used.

**Workshop A** – Epigenetics and iPS Cells  
**Workshop B** – Cancer Stem Cells  
**Workshop C** – Regulatory Roadmap for Stem Cell Therapies  
**Workshop D** – Future Patenting in Stem Cells  
**Workshop E** – Ethics and Social Science in Stem Cells  
**Workshop F** – Technology: Cell Culture Optimisation  
**Workshop G** – Technology: Imaging and Tracking Cells  
**Workshop H** – Technology Adoption by the NHS and Reimbursement

The 2010 conference dinner will again take place on the evening of day 2 (**13 July**) and is booked at [Kelham Hall](#) in Nottinghamshire. UKNSCN is delighted to announce that **Professor Sir John Gurdon (Cambridge)** - recent recipient of the Lasker Prize - has agreed to deliver the after-dinner speech at this year's event. Sir John follows in the footsteps of Sir Martin Evans and Sir Richard Gardner who spoke at the first two conference dinners in 2008 and 2009 respectively.

If you are interested in exhibiting at, or sponsoring the 2010 conference, please get in touch with the UKNSCN Executive Director at the e-mail address above. The attached PDF file details the various sponsorship packages available. The basic exhibitor-only package is £1250+VAT. Current sponsors are: University of Nottingham, Miltenyi Biotec Ltd, Stemcell Technologies Inc., CynTellect Europe Ltd, and the Science and Technology Department of the French Embassy in London.

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##### **LATEST UK APPOINTMENTS IN STEM CELL RESEARCH AND TRANSLATION**

You are reminded that the UKNSCN offers a free advertising service via its website for UK-based appointments in stem cell science and translation. Simply send on a PDF flyer detailing vacancies to the UKNSCN's Executive Director and we will do the rest. [New vacancies](#) have been posted to the website this week, so you are invited to take a look.

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##### **PNAS PAPER ON DIFFERENTIATION EFFICIENCY IN IPS CELLS**

A recent [BioNews article](#) has highlighted work by US researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison which encountered fundamental differences in the ability of 12 human iPSC lines compared with 5 human ESC lines to produce functional neurons. The Work has been published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*.

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## UK's TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY BOARD TO INVEST A FURTHER £6M IN NEXT PHASE OF REGENERATIVE MEDICINE PROGRAMME

The UK's Technology Strategy Board issued a [press release](#) on 9 February announcing its plan to invest a further £6M in the next phase of its *Regenerative Medicine Programme*. This will be split between commercial research and development projects in regenerative medicine therapeutics, and feasibility projects in regenerative medicine tools and technologies, and both competitions will open on **8 March 2010**. Members of the research and business communities therefore have some run-in time to begin thinking about projects and building consortia.

In order to assist with consortium building, the TSB has commissioned the HealthTech and Medicines Knowledge Transfer Network to organise **two free information workshops** for the UK community. These will take place on **4 March in Manchester** and on **24 March in London**. Venue and registration details for both workshops are available via the homepage of the [KTN's website](#), or you can contact Narpal Sihra ([nsihra@bioindustry.org](mailto:nsihra@bioindustry.org)) for further information.

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## RENEURON GROUP RECEIVES FULL REGULATORY APPROVAL FOR CLINICAL TRIALS OF STEM CELL-BASED STROKE THERAPY

The UK-based company ReNeuron Group plc issued a [press release](#) on 10 February announcing that the UK's regulatory authorities have fully approved the commencement of clinical trials of its neural stem cell-based therapy for stroke. More comprehensive technical details, together with quotes from the company, are available via the press release link above.

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## NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT SERVICE TO DEVELOP NEW 10-YEAR STRATEGY FOR BLOOD STEM CELLS

The NHS Blood and Transplant Service (NHSBT) issued a [press release](#) on 9 February indicating that the Public Health Minister Gillian Merron has asked the NHSBT to lead an expert team in developing a new 10-year strategy for the provision of blood stem cells, including those from umbilical cord blood, to fight leukaemias and other blood disorders. View the press release for full details.

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## STEM CELL RESEARCH AND JOURNAL PUBLICATION: RECORDING FROM RADIO 4'S TODAY PROGRAMME EARLIER THIS MONTH

Following the submission of an open letter to the editors of major scientific journals by 14 leading stem cell scientists, the BBC's Pallab Ghosh investigated this issue further, leading to an item broadcast via BBC Radio 4's *Today Programme* at around 7.10am on Tuesday 2 February. A recording of the full item, which lasted approximately 5 minutes, is available on-line via the [Today Programme website](#).

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## UKIPO GRANTS FIRST PATENT OUTSIDE JAPAN FOR IPS CELL TECHNOLOGY

On 12 January, the UK's Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) granted the first patent issued outside Japan for the genetic reprogramming technology used to create iPS cells. The patent has been granted to the Californian biomedical company iPierian. For full details, please view the [Nature Online](#) article.

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## US NIH EXPANDS ITS DEFINITION OF HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS

The US National Institutes of Health has extended its definition of human embryonic stem cells to include stem cells derived from earlier-stage embryos. This small change in definition will allow additional companies and researchers to qualify for federal funding. It does not change any of the ethical requirements in the existing NIH guidelines. See [on-line news article](#) for more information.

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## ENHANCED FREE ON-LINE CONTACTS DIRECTORY FOR EUROPEAN STEM CELL RESEARCHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

The "STEMdirect" free online contacts directory of European scientists with an active research programme focused on stem cell biology has now been **expanded** to include junior researchers and communicators/administrators engaged in activities focused on stem cell research. It has been developed by [EuroSyStem](#), the European Federation for Systematic Stem Cell Biology, an EU Framework 7 funded project. Providing you are based within Europe, you can now register or search contacts at [www.stemdirect.net](http://www.stemdirect.net).

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## MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN TRANSLATIONAL STEM CELL RESEARCH [UK ONLY]

The UK's Medical Research Council (MRC) continues to operate its new responsive mode funding scheme in translational stem cell research. The first five closing dates for outline proposals to the new [Translational Stem Cell Research Committee \(TSCRC\)](#) have now passed and the next closing date will be on **20 April 2010**. Information on all the closing dates in 2010 is now available via the link above or from Catriona Crombie at [catriona.crombie@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk](mailto:catriona.crombie@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk).

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## UKNSCN SMALL AWARDS SCHEME FOR MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE LAUNCHED

The Network has recently launched an informal small awards scheme (no external peer review or closing dates etc) in which small amounts of funding such as £500 or £1k can be made available to UK academics to contribute to the costs of coordinating national-level scientific meetings in stem cell science and translation. The budget for this scheme is fixed by the UKNSCN Management Board each year and is £15k for 2009/10. Full details, including eligibility criteria, are available via the [UKNSCN website](#).

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## UK PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY ON BIOENGINEERING (INCLUDING STEM CELLS): ON-LINE TV RECORDINGS

The UK Parliament's Science and Technology Select Committee held its first oral evidence session on 6 January under the Bioengineering Inquiry. Stem cell science and translation is one of the sub-topics within the inquiry, and the evidence session featured Professor Sir Martin Evans FRS (Cardiff University), Professor Douglas Kell (BBSRC Chief Executive) and Professor Chris Mason (UCL). The session lasted 1 hour 45 minutes and a full TV recording is available for viewing on the [Parliament TV website](#).

A second evidence session on regulatory issues was held on 20 January which included Professor Lisa Jardine of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), and Dr Martyn Ward of the Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). An uncorrected transcript of this evidence is available from the [select committee website](#). Alternatively, you can view an on-line TV recording of the session (which lasted 1 hour 15 minutes) on the [Parliament TV website](#). You can of course advance the recording at any stage to follow particular aspects of the discussion.

A third and final more general evidence session was held on 27 January covering future investment in the broad area of 'bioengineering'. The witnesses in this session included the Science Minister Lord Drayson. As previously, you can view an on-line TV recording of the session on the [Parliament TV website](#) and an uncorrected transcript of this evidence is available from the [select committee website](#).

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## EUROPEAN HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL REGISTRY SIXTH NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

Europe's hESC Registry has just published its [sixth newsletter](#) on-line. This contains a mine of useful information on the regulation and banking of hESCs across the globe, and includes a photograph of the UK Stem Cell Bank's brand new GMP research facility for clinical-grade human embryonic stem cell lines.

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## EVENTS

### Society for Medicines Research Symposium on Regenerative Medicine, Cambridge, UK, 11 March 2010

The Society for Medicines Research (SMR) is holding a one-day symposium on Regenerative Medicine in Cambridge on 11th March 2010. The speaker programme includes Stephen Minger, Austin Smith, Pete Coffey, Mark Bunnage, Paul Kemp, Eduardo Bravo and Koenraad Blot. Further details and on-line registration are available via the [SMR website](#).

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### Next Cancer Research UK London Research Institute Stem Cell Club Meeting, London, UK, 29 March 2010

Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute hosts a *Stem Cell Club* meeting every two months at 44 Lincoln's Inn Fields in London. Organised by Dominique Bonnet, these 'club' meetings are aimed primarily at young investigators and young group leaders who are establishing their laboratory. The remit of the club is wide, covering basic and applied research involving all types of stem cells. The second club meeting of 2010 takes place on 29 March and further details are available via the [London Research Institute website](#). If you are interested in presenting your research at these club meetings, you may submit a request to Dominique Bonnet.

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the British Society for Gene Therapy, London, UK, 29-31 March 2010

The BSGT is holding its seventh annual conference at the Royal Holloway University of London from 29-31 March. On-line registration, abstract submission and conference programme information is available via the [BSGT website](#). The conference programme includes speakers from the UK stem cell community such as Pete Coffey (UCL) and Chris Denning (Nottingham).

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## 2010 Joint Spring Meeting of the BSCB/BSDB, Warwick, UK, 12-15 April 2010

The British Society for Cell Biology (BSCB) and the British Society for Developmental Biology (BSDB) will be holding their joint spring meeting at the University of Warwick from 12-15 April 2010. For details of confirmed speakers and registration information, please view the [BSCB/BSDB website](#).

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## Fourth UK Mesenchymal Stem Cell Conference, Leeds, UK, 14 April 2010

In partnership with the UKNSCN, researchers from the universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York are holding the fourth national meeting dedicated to **mesenchymal stem cells** at the University of Leeds's Conference Auditorium on 14th April 2010 from 10.30am to 5pm. Please book the date in your diaries. You can register for the event via the [CPD4 Health Innovation website](#). Abstract submission for this conference closed on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010.

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## British Neuroscience Association (BNA) Spring Symposium *Towards a Regenerative Medicine of the Brain*, London, 14 April 2010

The BNA is holding its spring symposium *Towards a Regenerative Medicine of the Brain* on 14 April 2010 from 9am to 6.40pm at the Institute of Psychiatry in London. The programme features speakers from across the UK as well as a closing plenary lecture from Andras Simon of the Karolinska Institute in Sweden who will speak on what neuroscientists can learn from limb regeneration in the salamander. For further details and on-line registration, please view the [BNA website](#).

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## Practical Training Course on Human Pluripotent Stem Cells, Sheffield, UK, 21-22 April 2010

The University of Sheffield is again hosting the *Practical Training Course on Human Pluripotent Stem Cells – Principles and Practice* at the Centre for Stem Cell Biology in Sheffield from 21-22 April 2010. This is a 'hands-on' 2-day course covering all aspects of culturing human ES and iPS cells and their characterisation. It is useful to researchers at any level who are seeking to establish lab facilities for pluripotent stem cell culture. Topics covered during the course include:

- Setting up the laboratory
- Derivation and maintenance of hES cells and iPS cells
- Media preparation
- Feeder cells
- Cell differentiation strategies
- Basic characterisation with antibody markers
- Cryopreservation
- Quality control
- Obtaining hES cell lines

The cost of attending the course is £600 (excluding accommodation) and you are advised to register early since this course has been heavily oversubscribed in the past. Initial enquiries should be directed to Lauren O'Hara at [l.e.ohara@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:l.e.ohara@sheffield.ac.uk); also keep a lookout on the [CSCB website](#) for further information in due course.

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## Repairing the Body: First Cranfield Health Conference on Regenerative Medicine, Cranfield, UK, 22-23 April 2010

Cranfield University is holding its first conference on regenerative medicine to explore the translation of fundamental medical research into commercial technologies, with support from the East of England Stem Cell Network. The keynote speaker will be Professor Lord Robert Winston. For further details, please view the [Cranfield University website](#).

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## Fifth World Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine Congress, London, UK, 11-13 May 2010

The fifth Terrapinn World Congress on Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine will take place at the Royal Garden Hotel in London, UK from 11-13 May 2010. As usual, this commercial conference will bring together leading thinkers and chief executives from stem cell, regenerative medicine and pharmaceutical companies from across the world. This year's event will also have a significant focus upon the use of stem cells for drug discovery, in addition to cell therapy and

regenerative medicine. Further details and on-line registration are now available via the [congress website](#).

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#### **EMBL Stem Cells, Tissue Homeostasis and Cancer Conference, Heidelberg, Germany, 12-15 May 2010**

The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) is hosting a 4-day conference aimed at incorporating basic, translational and clinical aspects of stem cell research into a single framework for regenerative medicine and cancer biology. On-line registration is now available via the [EMBL website](#) and the deadline for submitting abstracts is **28 February**. Further information is also available from Ruth Hazlewood at EMBL – [ruth.hazlewood@embl.de](mailto:ruth.hazlewood@embl.de).

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#### **International Society for Cell Therapy (ISCT) 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA, 23-26 May 2010**

The ISCT's 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will take place in Philadelphia, USA from 23-26 May 2010. The speaker programme and registration information are available via the [conference website](#). The deadline for submission of abstracts for the conference passed on 1 February.

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#### **ESTOOLS International Symposium on Stem Cells in Biology and Disease, Lisbon, Portugal, 26-28 May 2010**

The EU Framework Programme 6 consortium ESTOOLS is holding an international symposium on stem cells in biology and disease at the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal from 26-28 May 2010. Scientific sessions include: cancer stem cells; fate switching and induced pluripotency; neural stem cells; neurodegenerative disease modelling and prospects for neural repair; technological advances in manipulating pluripotent stem cells; control of stem cell state and pluripotency.

The deadline for the submission of abstracts for this symposium is **22 March**. The deadline for registration to attend is **5 April**. Visit the [ESTOOLS website](#) for more information on the programme and how to register.

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#### **8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Cell Engineering, Dublin, Ireland, 11-12 June 2010**

The 8<sup>th</sup> international conference on cell engineering will take place at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland from 11-12 June 2010. Abstracts will be published in the *Proceedings of the International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE)*. The deadline for the submission of abstracts has been extended to **28 February**. Programme details and on-line registration are available via the [ICCE website](#).

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#### **ISSCR 2010 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California, USA, 16-19 June 2010**

The International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) is holding its 8th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California in June. On-line registration opened earlier this month via the [conference homepage](#). Abstract submission closed on 28 January. Prospective exhibitors for the conference have until **15 April** to submit their exhibitor contracts and register their attendance.

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#### **Hydra IV European Summer School on Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine, Hydra, Greece, 11-17 September 2010**

The EuroStemCell FP7 consortium's highly successful summer schools continue this year with the sixth event again taking place in Greece in September, organised by Austin Smith and Clare Blackburn. This year's course will provide intensive training on fundamental concepts and contemporary issues in stem cell biology. Leading experts will provide an in-depth, week-long programme of lectures, workshop and discussion groups on the following:

- The biology of stem cells – embryonic, foetal and adult systems
- Plasticity, epigenetic regulation, signalling and niche
- Clinical applications and clinical trials
- Ethics and patents in stem cell research

Further information is available from the [EuroStemCell consortium's website](#) and the deadline for applications to attend the summer school is **30 April 2010**.

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#### **Third GPI World Stem Cell Summit, Detroit, Michigan, USA, 4-6 October 2010**

The US-based Genetics Policy Institute (GPI) is holding its third World Stem Cell Summit in Detroit, Michigan from 4-6 October 2010. Further information about the programme and venue is available via the [summit's website](#).

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## COURSES

### Masters (MSc) Course in Nanotechnology and Regenerative Medicine, University College London

The [MSc in Nanotechnology and Regenerative Medicine](#) is a brand new course run by the UCL Centre for Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine which starts in September this year. The course is believed to be the first one focusing on nanotechnology applied to regenerative medicine, and places are available for one year's full-time or two years' part-time study. The closing date for this year's entry passed on **1 August 2009**. For further information, view the link above or contact Prof Alexander Seifalian at [a.seifalian@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.seifalian@ucl.ac.uk).

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### Masters (MRes) Research Programme in Tissue Engineering for Regenerative Medicine, University of Manchester

The [Masters by Research in TERM](#) is a new and pioneering one-year collaborative degree course combining expertise from a number of multi-disciplinary research groups across the University of Manchester. It aims to provide skills training and expertise in the practical techniques fundamental to tissue injury and repair including:

1. Core technologies relevant to tissue repair, engineering and regeneration
2. The use of 'smart' biomaterials and biopolymers to repair and regenerate tissues
3. Approaches to cell sourcing and cell differentiation
4. Developing clinical trials and the challenges of commercialisation

The MRes TERM provides training beyond the traditional boundaries of biology, medicine and engineering. It is unique as it is directed at students seeking to forge a career in tissue engineering and stem cell technology in either an academic or commercial setting. This allows students to specialise and focus on independent research projects tailored towards their career aspirations. Housed within the recently built UK Centre for Tissue Regeneration (UKCTR) the MRes combines two independent research placements to allow students the opportunity to experience a range of techniques. This follows a series of master classes covering aspects of cell sourcing, bioengineering and the barriers to commercialisation. With industrial input from the likes of Smith & Nephew, the MRes provides an ideal platform for career progression into PhD training, commercial settings or medical specialisation.

The course is now fully subscribed for 2009/10 entry. If you are interested in applying for 2010/11 entry, please visit the University of Manchester website at the link above.

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### Masters (MSc) Course in Stem Cell Technology, University of Nottingham

In response to the urgent need to train new graduates in the emerging stem cell field, the University of Nottingham launched its [MSc in Stem Cell Technology](#) in October 2007. This one year, full-time course is an innovative project designed to introduce science, agriculture and medical graduates throughout the world to the cutting edge of stem cell research and wide-ranging applications. Taught in Nottingham's state of the art Wolfson Centre for Stem Cells, Tissue Engineering and Modelling (STEM) by world-class researchers, students will gain both theoretical and practical knowledge of stem cells and how they can be applied to biotechnology and human health. This course is intended to provide a strong foundation for those wishing to pursue further careers in stem cell scientific research, in legislative/ managerial aspects of stem cell technologies, in clinical regenerative medicine and in stem cell commercialisation. Further information can be found at the link above or by e-mailing [mscstem@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:mscstem@nottingham.ac.uk).

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### Masters (MSc) Course in Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine, University of Sheffield

This new [masters course](#) has been developed in response to increasing international demand for training in generic aspects of stem cell science and regenerative medicine, which benefit a wide spectrum of applications. The course content is provided through collaboration between the Department of Biomedical Science, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and three of the UK's most prestigious research Centres - The Centre for Developmental and Biomedical Genetics, Centre for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering and Centre for Stem Cell Biology. The set of skills, knowledge and expertise that underpin the content of this course are unique to the University of Sheffield. Regenerative medicine using cell and tissue replacement therapies holds great promise for the future treatment of human disease. Hopes for the success of such therapies rely upon a thorough understanding of the biological processes that control the pluripotency, self-renewal and differentiation capacities of stem cells and their progeny. One challenge is to identify factors that regulate stem cell renewal and differentiation. Many of these processes are fundamental to normal embryonic development. Experimentally tractable model organisms, such as mouse, chick as well as Drosophila and zebrafish are proving useful in studying the fundamental molecular mechanisms underlying the commitment of totipotent or pluripotent cells to specific lineages and their subsequent differentiation into distinct tissues or organs. Complemented by molecular genetic and *in vitro* approaches using human embryonic stem cells and embryonic carcinoma cells, current research efforts are poised to make regenerative medicine a reality, and may lead to new treatments for a number of conditions including Parkinson's disease, diabetes, and hearing loss. For further information on the course see the link above or contact Professor Steve Winder [s.winder@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.winder@sheffield.ac.uk).

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## Masters (MRes) Research Programme in Regenerative Medicine, University of Bath

The Department of Biology and Biochemistry has been running a one-year, full time taught [MRes degree in Regenerative Medicine](#) since October 2004. The programme is run in association with the Bath Centre for Regenerative Medicine (BCRM), an interdisciplinary group from four sectors of the University. The programme focuses in particular on modern research in developmental biology and tissue engineering and its potential applications to medicine. It encompasses activities such as stimulating tissue regeneration *in situ*, grafting of stem cells to bring about repair, causing transdifferentiation of one tissue type into another, and creating functional tissues and organs by tissue engineering. Consisting of a range of taught units, together with a number of research projects, this degree enables students to gain practical and theoretical experience in a number of laboratories as well as studying taught Masters level units (courses). It is designed to give the student an insight into a range of research activities, techniques and skills, as well as to widen their knowledge both of the subject itself and the context within which the research will take place. It also provides a range of generic skills training in line with the Joint Skills Statement of the Research Councils. The MRes in Regenerative Medicine provides the ideal training for students to proceed to a three-year PhD programme, with a competitive edge in relation to undergraduate students applying for doctoral studies. The increased breadth and experience gained during the MRes in Regenerative Medicine will also make graduates more suitable to work in industry where a working knowledge of the nature and demands of academic research is needed. For further information, please see the link above.

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## Masters (MRes) Research Programme in Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine, North-East England Stem Cell Institute (NESCI)

The North East England Stem Cell Institute (NESCI) - a collaboration between Durham University, Newcastle University and the region's NHS Trusts – completed the first intake into the [Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine MRes programme](#) in 2007. Students register on the Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine specialisation within Newcastle University's MRes in Medical and Molecular Biosciences, a one year full-time modular research degree. The programme includes advanced study of stem cell biology, research skills and a 24-week research project. The programme provides a springboard into a career that involves a working knowledge of scientific research in academia and industry and provides excellent preparation for PhD research studies. Teaching is provided by internationally-recognised researchers at both universities drawn from across the wide breadth of biological, biomedical and medical sciences. Research projects are available in both Durham and Newcastle. For further information, view the link below or send e-mail correspondence to [office@nesci.ac.uk](mailto:office@nesci.ac.uk).

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## Masters (MSc) Course in Biomedical Engineering, Cell & Tissue Engineering, Keele University

This [taught Masters Course](#) provides multidisciplinary postgraduate training in biomedical engineering and cellular engineering, building on undergraduate knowledge in basic science and applying it to clinical applications of bioengineering and cell/tissue engineering relevant to the healthcare environment. Modules covered by this course include 'stem cell therapy', 'cell biomechanics', 'cell and tissue engineering', and 'physiological measurement and medical imaging'. There are two student intakes per year – one in October and one in January. Students can study full or part time. Prestigious scholarships are available for this course. Students perform two semesters of lectures followed by direct research project experience in the laboratory-based third semester. These research projects offer students hands on training in state of the art areas such as adult and embryonic stem cell culture, optical coherence tomography and bioreactor design. A seminar series is also offered throughout the first two semesters where students have the opportunity to be taught by and interact with international leaders in the field of bioengineering. These courses are run within the Institute of Science and Technology in Medicine at Keele University. ISTM has been rated in the national 2008 Research Assessment Exercise that 90% of the research staff here are rated internationally and 10% of the staff are world leading in their field. This builds on our excellent 5\* rating given to the Institute at the last RAE in 2001. In summary, the MSc Biomedical Engineering, Cell & Tissue Engineering course provides a year's training in two biotechnology fields. Further information is available at the link above.

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## Masters (MSc) Course in Medicine, Science and Society, King's College London

What is the impact of President Obama's policies on the global economy of embryonic stem cell research? What ethical and regulatory issues does the current boom of personal genome tests raise? Issues like these lie at the core of the [MSc Medicine, Science & Society](#) at the Centre for Biomedicine & Society (CBAS), King's College London. This MSc explores new and important areas for Science and Technology Studies (STS) and the social sciences, ranging from stem cells to nanomedicine. It explores the implications of innovative biomedicine for identities, innovations, bioethics, regulation, science, medicine, and healthcare. The MSc is well suited to social science, science and humanities graduates, as indicated in the [course flyer](#). Full/part-time options are available.

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## Masters (MA) Course in Bioethics and Society, King's College London (New for 2010)

Developments in the biosciences raise important ethical issues that are increasingly being addressed by multidisciplinary research teams from the fields of philosophy and social science through, for example, the Wellcome Trust Strategic Award that created the *London and Brighton Translational Ethics Centre* (hosted at CBAS). This innovative [MA in Bioethics & Society](#) enables students to combine philosophical ethics modules taught by staff at the world famous Centre of Medical Law & Ethics (CMLE, School of Law) with social science and ethics modules from our CBAS *MSc in Medicine, Science & Society*. Students will be able to pursue their Dissertation with staff from CBAS and/or CMLE. Full/part-time options are available.

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## INFORMATION

UPDATE FROM THE UK STEM CELL BANK

### **Cell Line Availability**

A detailed list of stem cell lines **currently available and supplied free of charge** from the UKSCB can be found on our [website](#). These are all **human embryonic stem cell lines** intended solely for research purposes. In addition, there are cell lines banked, of which some are awaiting release in the very near future, including the first **foetal neural stem cell line**. You are welcome to contact the Bank for further information on obtaining and depositing stem cell lines: [enquiries@ukstemcellbank.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ukstemcellbank.org.uk)

### **Assessment of Cell Lines for Banking**

The UKSCB is considering a mechanism of cell line evaluation to ensure that the Bank is focused on expediting the delivery of those of greatest value to the research community. The policy for this curation process has already been approved and the Bank is now establishing criteria to apply to ranking of cell lines. The policy is incorporated in the revised *Code of Practice for the Use of Human Stem Cell Lines*, which will be available later in 2010.

### **Get to Know the UK Stem Cell Bank!**

During 2009/2010, the Bank will continue to run a series of 'roadshow' events across the UK. **We welcome enquiries from scientists, clinicians and companies to arrange meeting with us in their region.** The roadshows are a great opportunity to meet representatives from the Bank and hear about the Bank's current activities.

### **Send Your Feedback to the UKSCB**

The Bank is now planning a survey to collect feedback from the stem cell community. We will be contacting you soon and would greatly appreciate your response to help us improve our services.

### **New Deposition and Access Legal Agreements**

The UKSCB has developed new Deposition and Access agreements to respond to the growing requirements of the stem cell research community. The new agreements are now available to download from the [UKSCB website](#).

### **New GMP Facility**

The UKSCB is currently moving to its new GMP facility, also based on site at NIBSC. New analytical laboratories will soon be operational. The cleanroom facility, which will permit expanded banking activity, will now undergo an extensive validation phase with completion in the summer of 2010.

### **Dr. Iphigenie Charatsi, UKSCB Business Manager**

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### **UKNSCN REVISED CORPORATE PLAN AND DELIVERY PLAN PUBLISHED**

The UKNSCN has recently published a revised version of its [Corporate Plan \(2008-11\)](#), together with its new [Delivery Plan \(2009/10\)](#). These are now available as PDF files via the UKNSCN website at the links above. Hard copies of the Corporate Plan only are available on request from the UKNSCN office.

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### **Scottish Stem Cell Network (SSCN) Quarterly Newsletters Available Online**

The SSCN issues quarterly newsletters in hard copy, which are also now available online via the [SSCN website](#). The most recent issue (winter 2009/10) is now available.

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### **REMEDIe EU Framework Programme 7 Consortium: Stakeholder Survey on Regenerative Medicine**

The Regenerative Medicine in Europe (REMEDIe) FP7 consortium, centred on the University of York, invites you to participate in its on-going [on-line stakeholder survey](#) designed to gauge the full extent of the regenerative medicine industry in Europe. The on-line survey, aimed at business, is accessible at the link above.

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### **Medical Research Council (MRC) Experimental Medicine Toolkit**

Launched by the MRC Regulatory Support Centre, the Experimental Medicine Toolkit has been designed to support investigators, research managers and ethics committees in (a) assessing the risks involved in experimental medicine studies, and (b) devising risk-proportionate management and monitoring strategies. This is undoubtedly of use to stem cell researchers and clinicians. Further information is available on the [toolkit homepage](#).

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### **Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Stem Cell Initiative Electronic Bulletins**

The ESRC Stem Cell Initiative has been issuing quarterly electronic bulletins to report on the latest social science research in stem cells and regenerative medicine. The **sixth** and final issue continues to be available via the [University of York website](#) and reports on the *Beyond Pattison* conference which took place in London on 7/8 May 2009. There are updates on research activities and events which are of particular interest to stem cell social scientists. If you require further information on the ESRC Stem Cell Initiative, you can request this by E-mail from Andrew Webster at [ajw25@york.ac.uk](mailto:ajw25@york.ac.uk).

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## ESRC Genomics Network Research Briefing on HFE Act 2008 – Now Available Online

This [research briefing](#) was prepared in conjunction with a workshop organised by the ESRC Genomics Policy and Research Forum, held on Thursday 8 October at the ESRC Genomics Network Conference 2009, Cardiff. This workshop brought together new research on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 from current PhD students and recent PhD graduates, from the ESRC Genomics Network and beyond. For more information please contact Dr Christine Knight, Genomics Forum Policy Research Fellow; e-mail [Christine.knight@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Christine.knight@ed.ac.uk).

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## EuroSciCon Meetings and Conferences of Relevance to the Stem Cell Community

Founded in 2001, the life sciences communications organisation EuroSciCon has a number of very specific meetings organised over the next two years which are relevant to the stem cell research community. These are commercial workshops attracting CPD accreditation in most cases. However, you may be entitled to a discount as a UKNSCN member in some cases. Discounts currently apply to impending meetings on *Regulatory T Cells*, *Advances in Cell Culture Technology* and *Improving Immunohistochemistry*, for which a booking code is available from the UKNSCN. If you are interested, please view the [EuroSciCon website](#).

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