



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the twenty-seventh 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>. 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 just over **2000** 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 28 will be circulated on **27 May 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. A significant number of delegates places have already been taken, so you are advised to register in the near future to secure your place. 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), Chris Wright (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 basic exhibitor-only package is £1250+VAT. Current [sponsors](#) are: University of Nottingham, Miltenyi Biotec Ltd, Stemcell Technologies Inc., Cytellect Europe Ltd, the Science and Technology Department of the French Embassy in London, BioCity Nottingham, Medilink East Midlands, Tocris Bioscience, Thermo Scientific, ReNeuron Group plc, and Life Technologies Inc. (formerly Applied Biosystems and Invitrogen).

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FOURTH UKNSCN CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE IN YORK IN 2011 – 30 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2011

The UKNSCN has now signed a contract with the [University of York](#) for the hosting of the 2011 UK Annual Stem Cell Science Conference. This will take place from **Wednesday 30 March to Friday 1 April**, and marks a return to UKNSCN's more traditional spring slot in the calendar in line with the first and second conferences in 2008 and 2009. Please note the dates in your diaries: for those of you already planning holidays for Easter 2011, the standard school holidays for Easter 2011 fall within the period 11-25 April 2011. This will be the Network's fourth conference, which will continue to showcase the UK's world class stem cell research and translation, complemented by a selection of plenary talks from leading overseas researchers. The conference will continue to feature a trade exhibition which will accommodate 40-50 exhibition stands, and a range of formal sponsorship packages will be available.

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REMINDER: UKNSCN SMALL AWARDS SCHEME OPEN TO APPLICATIONS FOR 2010/11 [UK ONLY]

You are reminded that the [UKNSCN's Small Awards Scheme](#), launched in January this year, is now open to applications within the new financial year 2010/11. Please follow the link above to view the details of the scheme and the criteria which applications must fulfil. This is a very straightforward scheme with no closing dates and no formal peer review. Funds are for covering or off-setting the costs of hosting stem cell science-related meetings and conferences, and are targeted towards UK-based academics.

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VATICAN SET TO FUND US-BASED ADULT STEM CELL RESEARCH

The Vatican announced last week that it will be funding research in the US into the potential use of adult stem cells for therapeutic purposes. It will be donating €2M to a research project led by the Centre for Celiac Research at the University of Maryland. Further details are available in the latest issue of [BioNews](#), published by the Progress Educational Trust.

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US UPDATE: FEDERAL FUNDING APPROVAL STILL AWAITED ON WIDELY-USED BUSH-ERA STEM CELL LINES

Stem cell researchers in the USA are still awaiting federal funding approval for some of the most widely-used human embryonic stem cell lines carried over from the Bush-era. Under the new National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines published following President Obama's Executive Order of a year ago, rigorous standards of informed consent are required for the use of hESCs in research, and those guidelines apply to the Bush-era lines as well as new lines. You can read further details in a recent issue of [BioNews](#), published by the Progress Educational Trust.

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SCIENTIFIC DEBATE OVER EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN ESCs AND iPSCs

Research continues apace into identifying the differences which may exist between the two main types of pluripotent stem cell - embryonic stem cells (ESCs), and induced

pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) generated through reprogramming technology – and the possible implications for their future use. Earlier this month, *Nature News* reported on US work in mice which has pinpointed key genetic differences between ESCs and iPSCs which might help to explain the apparent lower robustness and differentiation efficiency of iPSCs. Further details can be found in a recent issue of [BioNews](#).

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CANADA-UK RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN COLLABORATION WITH PFIZER – CLOSING DATE 22 MAY 2010

The Canadian Stem Cell Network has teamed up with Pfizer Regenerative Medicine to launch an elite 3-year fellowship programme for the very best postdoctoral researchers in the stem cell field. Successful applicants will spend two years in one of Canada's leading academic stem cell research laboratories, and one year with Pfizer in either their UK- or US-based facilities. A full description of the programme and application details are available on-line via the Canadian Stem Cell Network [website](#). The closing date for applications submitted by e-mail is **22 May 2010**.

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UKNSCN EIGHTH PATENTS DIGEST FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2010 NOW AVAILABLE

The Network's eighth 'digest' of patents in stem cell research has been produced as usual in conjunction with the UK Intellectual Property Office. This is available as a PDF download from the [UKNSCN website](#). The report covers the period 1 January 2010 to 28 February 2010 and as usual provides a breakdown of both published and granted patents during this period in three areas: adult stem cells, embryonic stem cells and iPS cells/de-differentiation. In addition, we continue to publish the search strategy used to generate this digest. This is available as an Annex to the report. This report is 50 pages long and contains brief bibliographic information on 184 patents designed to enable you to pick out relevant patents and conduct your own further study on the relevant database using the patent number. The report contains:

160 published patents: 108 adult, 35 embryonic, 17 iPS

24 granted patents: 16 adult, 7 embryonic, 1 iPS

The next digest for March/April will be published in mid-May.

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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](#) will shortly be posted to the website, so you are invited to take a look over the coming days.

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ON-GOING 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 six 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 **10**

August 2010. Information on all the closing dates in 2010 is available via the link above or from Catriona Crombie at catriona.crombie@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk.

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UK PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY ON BIOENGINEERING (INCLUDING STEM CELLS): FINAL REPORT AVAILABLE

The UK Parliament's Science and Technology Select Committee has now concluded its Bioengineering Inquiry, during which it held three oral evidence sessions and focused on stem cells as one of its three scientific areas. The final report was published in March and is available for you to read on the [select committee 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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British Library Public Engagement Event: *Stem Cells – a Panacea for our Future?*, London, UK, 12 May 2010

The Science, Technology and Medicine Team at the British Library is hosting a public engagement event in the evening of 12 May, from 6pm to 8.30pm at its premises on Euston Road. The event is part of its *TalkScience* series and focuses upon *Stem Cells – a Panacea for our Future?* Austin Smith will lead the event, which will include audience discussion. Advance booking for this event is essential and costs £5 (including refreshments). Those interested in attending can book by e-mail to: TalkScience@bl.uk, or by telephone on (01937) 546546.

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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 still available via the [EMBL website](#), although the deadline for submitting abstracts passed on 28 February. Further information is also available from Ruth Hazlewood at EMBL – ruth.hazlewood@embl.de.

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International Society for Cell Therapy (ISCT) 16th Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, USA, 23-26 May 2010

The ISCT's 16th 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 passed on 22 March, and on-line registration has now closed. Visit the [ESTOOLS website](#) for more information on the symposium programme.

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Cancer Research UK London Research Institute Stem Cell Club Meeting, London, UK, 31 May 2010

Cancer Research UK's London Research Institute hosts an **evening 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 third club meeting of 2010 takes place on **31 May** and further details are available via the [London Research Institute website](#).

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Second Annual REMEDIe (Regenerative Medicine in Europe) Conference, Wisconsin-Madison, USA, 9-10 June 2010

This conference provides an opportunity to explore and debate the current state of the stem-cells and wider regenerative medicine field and to determine how global shifts will affect both the US and Europe. The European contribution is based on an EC-funded project, REMEDIe (Regenerative Medicine in Europe), that examines the current European engagement with regenerative medicine and how this compares with that found more globally. REMEDIe is the only **social science** project funded within the Commission's FP7 to explore this area. Its primary objective is to understand how the political, economic and bioethical developments within the field operate at national and transnational levels and their implications for healthcare systems across Europe. The conference is supported locally in Wisconsin-Madison by the Holtz Centre and internationally by the European Commission and the Worldwide University Network. You can access [further details online](#), and registration forms are available from the [University of York website](#).

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8th International Conference on Cell Engineering, Dublin, Ireland, 11-12 June 2010

The 8th 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 passed on 31 March, though prospective delegates can still register to attend. 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 is available via the [conference homepage](#), and closes on **20 May**. After this date, prospective delegates can only register on site. Abstract submission for the conference closed on 28 January. If you are intending to use the ISSCR's headquarters hotel for your accommodation, reservations can only be made up to, and including, **14 May**.

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Next BHF Centre Symposium on Vascular Biology & Arterial Inflammation, London, UK, 18 June 2010

Imperial College London's next BHF Centre Symposium will take place in the Alexander Fleming Building at Imperial College's South Kensington campus on Friday **18 June 2010** from 9am to 6.40pm, and will include a session on **angiogenesis and endothelial progenitor cells**. The symposium is free, though prospective delegates **must** register in advance by contacting Katie Payne at: k.payne@imperial.ac.uk. Further details are available in the attached PDF flyer.

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University of Bath Centre for Regenerative Medicine Annual Symposium, Bath, UK, 28-29 June 2010

The Bath CRM annual symposium for 2010 will include sessions on developmental processes, stem cells, regeneration and tissue engineering, and there will be an opportunity to **present posters**. Further details on registration (which the organisers hope will be free) and abstract submission will be available from [CRM website](#) in due course.

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Next Meeting of the UK Cardiovascular Collaborative on Stem Cells, London, UK, 1 July 2010

You are invited to note the date of the next meeting of the UK Cardiovascular Collaborative on Stem Cells, which will take place at University College London (Taverton Street) on 1 July from 10am to 2pm. The nearest tube station is Euston Square. Attendance is open to all and is free, though you should **register in advance** by contacting Mrs Vanessa Perrin at: v.perrin@ucl.ac.uk. An agenda will be circulated in due course, which will include presentations from cardiovascular researchers at the Royal Veterinary College.

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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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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

INFORMATION

UPDATE FROM THE UK STEM CELL BANK

UKSCB Online Survey

We would like to thank all those who have responded to our on-line survey. We are in the process of analysing your feedback which will be reported in a subsequent newsletter and the UKSCB Annual Report. If you have not already submitted a response we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to fill out the **online survey** by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/M9SQNNF>. In addition, we would like to be able to follow up on certain responses if necessary and would appreciate if you would leave your contact details for this purpose. The information you provide will only be held by the UKSCB. The purpose of this survey is to help us improve current services and identify new products or services we could provide, that would be of use to you.

Training

The practical training course run by Stem Cell Technologies on pluripotent stem cells was held at NIBSC, 29th to the 30th of April 2010. The **8TH UK Stem cell Bank Technical Forum** will be held on the **19th May 2010** at NIBSC, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. For more information please visit the UKSCB website and select Stem Cell events. We are also preparing for the next UKSCB practical training course. If you would like more details please contact us at enquiries@ukstemcellbank.org.uk

Recent Publications on Stem Cell Banking

- Crook, J.M., Hei, D. and Stacey, G.N. (2010) The International Stem Cell banking Initiative: Raising standards to bank on. *In Vitro Cell.Dev.Biol.—Animal*, 46: 169-172.
- ISCB (2009) Consensus Guidance for Banking and Supply of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Lines for Research Purposes; The International Stem Cell Banking Initiative. *Stem Cell Rev and Rep*. 5:301-314.
- Peter W. Andrews, P.W. Benvenisty, N., Knowles, B.B., McKay, R.D.J., Oh, S.K.W., Pera, M.F., Rossant, J., Stacey, G.N. (2010) Human ES cell lines—introduction, *In Vitro Cell.Dev.Biol.—Animal* (2010) 46:167-168.
- The International Stem Cell Initiative Consortium, Akopian, V., Andrews, P.W., Beil, S., Benvenisty, N., Brehm, J., Christie, M., Ford, A., Fox, V., Gokhale, P.J., Healy, L., Holm, F., Hovatta, O., Knowles, B.B., Ludwig, T.E., McKay, R.D.G., Miyazaki, T., Nakatsuji, N., Oh, S.K.W., Pera, M.F., Rossant, J., Stacey, G.N., and Suemori, H. (2010) Comparison of defined culture systems for feeder cell free propagation of human embryonic stem cells. *In Vitro Cellular & Developmental Biology – Animal. Volume 46, Numbers 3-4: 1071-2690.*
- Knezevic I, Stacey G, Petricciani J, Sheets R (on behalf of the WHO Study Group on Cell Substrates) (2010). [Evaluation of cell substrates for the production of biologicals: Revision of WHO recommendations Report of the WHO Study Group on Cell Substrates for the Production of Biologicals, 22-23 April 2009, Bethesda, USA](#). *Biologicals*; 38:162-9.
- Young L., Sung, J., Stacey, G. and J Masters J.R. (2010) Mycoplasma detection. *Nature protocols*, in press.

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

Get to Know the UK Stem Cell Bank

During 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 a meeting with us in their region.** The roadshows provide a great opportunity to meet representatives from the Bank, hear about the Bank's current activities and give us feedback on what you feel the Bank should be doing for you.

To contact the UKSCB please send e-mail correspondence to: enquiries@ukstemcellbank.org.uk

Dr Iphigenie Charatsi, UKSCB Business Manager

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UK Stem Cells On-line Regulatory Toolkit

You are reminded that the Department of Health's *On-line UK Stem Cell Toolkit* for navigating the UK's regulatory framework for stem cell research and translation remains available via the [DoH website](#).

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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 available.

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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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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.

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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.

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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 may apply to future meetings on *Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells* and *Flow Cytometry Techniques*, for which a booking code is available from the UKNSCN. If you are interested, please view the [EuroSciCon website](#).

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