

From: Senior Programme Manager (UKNSCN)

Sent: 26 September 2008 16:50

To: Senior Programme Manager (UKNSCN)

Subject: UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN): News & Events Bulletin 11

Attachments: UKMSCMeetingFlyer.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the eleventh news and events bulletin issued by the UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN). These bulletins are circulated on a regular basis (now monthly) when there are sufficient events to publicise, and are also posted in PDF format on the events section of the UKNSCN website (<http://www.uknscn.org>). 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. Your E-mail address appears on this list either because you requested it or for one of the following reasons:

- you are a member of a regional stem cell network
- you are a Research Council grant holder
- you attended the Town Meeting held on 5 July 2006 in London
- you are a member of the UK Stem Cell Funders' Forum or the Stem Cell User and Clinical Liaison Committee
- you have attended Research Council science workshops in the past
- you are known to the Network secretariat as an active member of the UK stem cell research community

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 **1300** individuals, covering the following diversity of stakeholders: academics (of many disciplines), industrialists, charities, learned societies, professional associations, lawyers, venture capitalists, regulatory bodies, 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. Thank you.

Ben Sykes

Coordinator, UK National Stem Cell Network

E-mail: uksa@uknscn.org

Website: <http://www.uknscn.org>

NEWS

REMINDER: 2009 UKNSCN ANNUAL SCIENCE MEETING ANNOUNCED [OXFORD, UK 6-8 APRIL 2009]

You are reminded that the UKNSCN's second annual scientific conference will take place in Oxford, UK from 6-8 April 2009. Please book the dates in your diaries. The conference, posters and trade exhibitions will be held at the University of Oxford Examination Schools, with overnight accommodation provided in three surrounding Oxford colleges (included within the registration fee). Places will be limited to between 450 and 500 delegates, and on-line registration will open within the next week via the UKNSCN website. Registration will be open to delegates from both the UK and overseas. Companies and organisations interested in sponsoring the 2009 meeting should contact the UKNSCN Coordinator. Sponsors of the inaugural meeting held in Edinburgh this year were AstraZeneca, the Scottish Stem Cell Network and the Victoria State Government of Australia. UKNSCN is delighted to announce that the second Dame Anne McLaren Memorial Lecture will be delivered on day one of the conference (6th April) by Janet Rossant from The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. A further two keynote presentations will be delivered by Robert Nerem of Georgia Tech, USA, and Joseph Vacanti of Harvard Medical School, USA, on days two and three.

[Press Release](#)

[Further Details on UKNSCN Website](#)

UKNSCN FIRST CORPORATE PLAN PUBLISHED

The UKNSCN has just published its first Corporate Plan covering the three-year period 2008-2011. The Plan sets out how UKNSCN will contribute to the advancement of stem cell science and help facilitate its translation towards stem cell therapies during this initial period. The Plan is available for downloading from the UKNSCN website at the link below. In addition, many of you reading this will receive a more formal printed copy in the post shortly.

[Download Corporate Plan](#)

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF UKNSCN

The UKNSCN has been operational for almost two years, at which point it was determined at its outset (July 2006) that it should be subject to independent review to decide how the Network operates into the longer-term future. The four Research Councils currently sponsoring the UKNSCN have therefore recently appointed an external contractor (People Science and Policy Ltd) to conduct an independent review of UKNSCN during this autumn. During the month of October, many of you will receive correspondence from PSP Ltd inviting you to complete an on-line questionnaire about the activities and future of UKNSCN. Please take the time to complete this and ensure that your views contribute to the shaping of UKNSCN for the longer-term. The review process will culminate in a further Open Community Meeting very similar to that which took place in July 2006. This will probably be held in January 2009.

STEM CELLS FOR SAFER MEDICINES SECOND CALL-FOR-PROPOSALS [UK ONLY]

The UK's public-private partnership *Stem Cells for Safer Medicines* has just announced its second call-for-proposals, which follows on from work funded under its first call last year on liver stem cell technologies. Under this second call, £160k is on offer for projects characterising and validating cardiomyocytes derived from human embryonic stem cells. One large or two smaller projects of 12 months' duration (maximum) will be supported. Expressions of interest are now invited from academia or SMEs within the UK, against a **closing date of 10 October 2008**, which will be followed by two further application stages (attendance at a briefing meeting and then an invitation to submit a full proposal). Full details are available on the *SC4SM* website via the link below.

[View Full Details](#)

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

The UK's Medical Research Council (MRC) has just announced a new responsive mode funding scheme and two calls-for-proposals in translational stem cell research. Stem cells and regenerative medicine remain an MRC priority, and new funding has been made available to promote the application of stem cell technology. A new funding panel, the **Translational Stem Cell Research Committee (TSCRC)**, has been established to deliver MRC funding to this area, both in responsive mode, and through directed calls-for-proposals. MRC will continue to support fundamental stem cell research through its research boards. Further details on these opportunities are available via the hyperlinks below. Alternatively, you may contact Catriona Crombie at catriona.crombie@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk.

Responsive Mode Funding

The TSCRC will fund investigator-led research proposals that have clear translational goals. Outline proposals may be submitted for a first deadline of **6 October**. Find out more at the TSCRC webpage on MRC's website.

Collaborative Programmes for Disease or System-based Stem Cell Research

£10m is available for proposals that seek to establish high quality, collaborative research programmes with sufficient critical mass to make an impact in translating basic discovery science towards the clinic. The deadline for expressions of interest is **8**

October.

Pre-clinical Stem Cell Research

£3m is available for project grants addressing the pre-clinical barriers that exist towards the therapeutic use of stem cells. The deadline for applications is **5 November**.

MHRA PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON ADVANCED THERAPY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS [UK ONLY]

The UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has just launched a public consultation seeking the views of healthcare professionals on the UK's proposed exemption scheme for advanced therapy medicinal products under article 28(2) of the EC's ATMP Regulation. Please take the time to review the consultation and send comments to the UKNSCN Coordinator. The UKNSCN will be preparing a submission focused upon the implications for stem cell therapies on behalf of the community. The deadline for submissions will be **15 October 2008**.

[View Consultation](#)

HUMAN TISSUE AUTHORITY (HTA) PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON NEW CODE OF PRACTICE [UK ONLY]

The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) is the UK body responsible for regulating the storage of human tissue for research under the Human Tissue Act 2004 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. On 1 August, the HTA launched an on-line public consultation on a new Code of Practice - the first produced specifically for those who store human tissue for research. The consultation also covers another seven revised Codes of Practice, including the consent for use, and disposal, of human tissue. This is directly relevant to the UK stem cell research community and you are encouraged to submit comments on any aspect of these Codes of Practice. In addition, the HTA asks some specific questions on its website, which can be viewed on the consultation pages at the link below. The deadline for submissions to the consultation is **14 November 2008**.

[View Consultation](#)

RECEIVE REGULAR ELECTRONIC UPDATES FROM THE HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY AUTHORITY (HFEA)

If you wish to keep abreast of regulatory developments affecting the field of stem cell research and translation, you can now register on the HFEA website to receive regular monthly updates on HFEA business directly to your e-mail Inbox. To register, access the link below.

[Subscribe to Regular HFEA Updates](#)

EVENTS

RegeNer8 Consortium Workshop in Stem Cells for Tissue Engineering, County Durham, UK, 3 October 2008

The RegeNer8 consortium, a collaboration between academic and industrial research into translational regenerative medicine in the north of England, is holding its third workshop *Stem Cells for Tissue Engineering* at the Redworth Hall Hotel in County Durham on 3 October. This workshop will focus upon current regenerative medicine research being carried out at three of the "N8" universities - Durham, Newcastle and York. Further details about the speaker programme, registration and sponsorship and exhibition opportunities are available via the link below.

[Programme Details and Registration](#)

Stem Cell Patents Workshop, Cambridge, UK, 3 October 2008

The East of England Stem Cell Network (EESCN) has organised a stem cell patents workshop for the morning of 3 October in Cambridge, to be followed by a buffet lunch. Attendance is open to everyone on a first-come first-served basis, and is free to academics (£100 for commercial organisations). Further details on the venue and programme can be viewed on the EESCN website at the link below.

[View EESCN Events Page](#)

bioProcessUK Special Interest Group Workshop on the Supply Chain for Cell Products, Edinburgh, UK, 9 October 2008

In partnership with the Scottish Stem Cell Network, the knowledge transfer network bioProcessUK is holding the first meeting of its Bioprocessing for Advanced Therapies Special Interest Group at the Carlton Hotel in Edinburgh, UK on 9 October. The workshop aims to bring together bioprocess engineers with stem cell scientists interested in the development and manufacture of cell products. The speaker programme for the day includes leading experts from industry such as John Lovelady from Intercytex, Nathan Griffiths from AbCellute and Duncan Mackay from Genzyme. Attendance at the workshop is free, but registration is required. For the full programme and registration details, please view the links below:

[Workshop Flyer](#)

[Registration Site](#)

9th International Congress on Cell Biology, COEX, Seoul, South Korea, 7-10 October 2008

The ninth International Congress on Cell Biology will take place in Seoul, South Korea from 7-19 October 2008. Prospective delegates should view the ICCB2009 website at the following link: <http://www.iccb2008.org/>. The abstract submission deadline has been extended until **31 August**.

Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority Annual Conference, London, UK, 13 October 2008

The HFEA will be holding its 2008 annual conference on 13 October at the Royal College of Surgeons in London, titled *Delivering the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill in Practice*. Speakers will include the Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP (Minister of State for Public Health), Sir Alan Moses (Justice of Appeal), and Professor Lisa Jardine (new Chair of the HFEA). Attendance at the conference is free, though registration is required and places will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. To register, send a request by e-mail to: annualconference@hfea.gov.uk.

ISCI Symposium on Human Embryonic Stem Cells, Bar Harbor, Maine, USA, 13 October 2008

The International Stem Cell Characterisation Initiative (ISCI), in partnership with the Jackson Laboratory Bar Harbor, is holding a one-day symposium celebrating the 10th anniversary of the publication of the isolation of hESCs. Thus will be held at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, USA on 13 October 2008. Prospective attendees should contact Nancy Place at nancy.place@jax.org.

The symposium is immediately followed by a 5-day course titled *Methods in Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research*. The course provides hands-on training for 16 investigators wishing to learn how to culture, manipulate and differentiate human ES cells *in vitro*. Applications to attend this course may still be submitted; forms may be downloaded at the following weblink:

[Information and Registration](#)

New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) Third Annual Conference, New York City, USA, 14-15 October 2008

The New York Stem Cell Foundation is holding its third annual translational stem cell research conference "*Breaking Through*" at the Rockefeller University in New York City, USA from 14-15 October 2008. Confirmed speakers from the UK include Pete Coffey of UCL. Further details are available on the NYSCF website at the link below:

[Further Conference Details](#)

Second Leeds-Michigan Tissue Engineering Symposium, Leeds, UK, 16 October 2008

The second Leeds-Michigan tissue engineering symposium will take place on 16 October at Weetwood Hall Hotel and Conference Centre in Leeds, UK. This has been organised by Dr Xuebin Yang and Professor David Wood of Leeds University. Further details can be downloaded at the link below:

[Download Conference Flyer and Registration Form](#)

"BRIDGE" European Network Meeting, University of Leeds, UK, 17 October 2008

The EU BRIDGE Network is holding a meeting titled *Engineering 3D Model Tissues: Routes to Industrial Application and Reduced Animal Use* at the University of Leeds on the afternoon of 17 October. The speaker programme includes a presentation on mesenchymal stem cells in 3D *in vitro* models. Attendance at this meeting is **free**, but places are limited. For further details, please view the link below:

[Download Meeting Programme](#)

Northeast England Stem Cell Institute (NESCI) Research Day, Durham, UK, 24 October 2008

NESCI's next research day will take place on Friday 24 October in Durham, where the guest overseas speaker will be Haifan Lin from Yale University, USA. Further programme details will be made available via the NESCI website:

<http://www.nesci.ac.uk>

Third Annual UK Cancer Stem Cells Symposium, London, UK, 13 November 2008

The third annual UK cancer stem cells symposium will take place at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry on 13 November 2008, with Ian Mackenzie chairing the proceedings. Confirmed speakers are listed at the weblink below and the

registration deadline for interested delegates is **Friday 15th October**.

[Further Information and Registration](#)

Sixth Annual Meeting on the Commercial Translation of Regenerative Medicine, London, UK, 17-18 November 2008

University College London's sixth annual meeting *Mapping the Path to Market for Autologous and Allogeneic Therapies* will take place in London on 17-18 November. It will gather together the principal institutions from across the globe to discuss best practice in the product development and commercialisation of tissue engineered products and regenerative medicine therapies. Keynote speakers will include Steven Bauer (US Food and Drug Administration), Brock Reeve (Harvard Stem Cell Institute, USA), Paul Kemp (Intercytex, UK) and Geoff Mackay (Organogenesis, US). For a full programme and registration information, send an e-mail request to Ola Samuelsson at Marcus Evans UK: marketing2@marcusevansuk.com.

Launch Symposium for New MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine, Edinburgh, UK, 24 November 2008

The new Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine (SCRM) will be holding its launch event and accompanying scientific symposium at the *Dynamic Earth* venue in Edinburgh, UK on 24 November 2008. The keynote speaker will be Irving Weissman, Director of Stanford's Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine. Registration is now open for this event at the link below, and access to the provisional programme for the symposium is available via the SCRM website at the second link below:

[Registration Hosted on Scottish Stem Cell Network Website](#)

[SCRM Symposium Website](#)

BioProcessUK Annual Conference *Developing Biological Medicines, Unravelling the Process*, Brighton, UK, 26-27 November 2008

The Knowledge Transfer Network bioProcessUK is holding its next annual conference in Brighton, UK from 26-27 November 2008 and is of interest to the stem cell research community. Registration for this conference is now open through the link below, where further details regarding the speaker programme can also be found:

[Programme and Registration Details](#)

Visit to the UK Stem Cell Bank and National Institute for Biological Standards & Control (NIBSC), South Mimms, UK, 1 December 2008

The East of England Stem Cell Network (based in Cambridge) has organised a visit to the UK Stem Cell Bank on 1 December 2008 for both scientists and non-scientists wishing to receive an introduction to the Bank's activities and the wider services offered by the NIBSC. The programme will take up the morning, followed by a buffet lunch. Prospective attendees must register with EESCN's Coordinator Jeanette Walker at: jeanettewalker@eescn.org.uk.

Third UK Mesenchymal Stem Cell Meeting, University of Sheffield, UK, 8 January 2009

In partnership with the UKNSCN, the organisers of the annual mesenchymal stem cell group meeting are pleased to announce that their third conference will take place at the Octagon Centre, University of Sheffield, UK on 8 January 2009. This meeting follows on from the successes of the previous two meetings held in York in 2006 and 2007 when approximately 200 delegates attended and more than 40 abstracts were submitted. The programme for next January is again structured to include participation and discussion, and is an opportunity to present your research, network and exchange ideas in a friendly and informal environment. Prospective delegates are encouraged to submit abstracts covering all aspects of MSC biology and related areas for poster presentation. The highest scoring abstracts will be selected for oral presentation. The speaker programme includes world class researchers in Sir Richard Gardner (Oxford), Paolo Bianco (La Sapienza, Italy), Francesco Dazzi (Imperial College London), Stuart Forbes (Edinburgh) and Stefan Przyborski (Durham). A flyer is attached to this bulletin, and registration opened on **15th September** via the weblink below. The deadline for abstract submission will be 14 November, and the deadline for registration is 15 December.

[Further Details and Registration](#)

Third Annual Stem Cells World Congress, Palm Springs, California, USA, 20-22 January 2009

The third annual Stem Cells World Congress, organised by Select Biosciences Ltd, will take place in Palm Springs, USA from 20-22 January 2009. The programme includes a special session on biobanking, together with a market tutorial on *Stem Cells in Drug Discovery and Regenerative Medicine*. For further information and registration, please view the weblink below:

[Further Details and Registration](#)

EMBO Workshop on Beta Cell Differentiation and Regeneration, Peebles, Scotland, UK, 26 February-1 March 2009

The European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) is holding a workshop on Beta Cell Differentiation and Regeneration from 26 February to 1 March 2009 in Peebles, Scotland. The specific purpose of the workshop is to bring together both established and young investigators from diverse fields with a common interest in islet organogenesis, islet stem cells, islet regeneration and islet survival. The importance of the workshop is that the knowledge gained may contribute to a better understanding of the beta cell defects that are associated with diabetes mellitus. For details on how to apply for a place on this workshop, please visit the EMBO website below. The deadline for applications is **1 December 2008**.

[Register Here](#)

COURSES

"ESTOOLS" Winter School on Human ES Cells and iPS Cells, Saariselke, Finland, 26-30 January 2009

ESTOOLS is European Commission-funded consortium under the Framework Programme 6 coordinated by the University of Sheffield (Professor Peter Andrews) and involving 21 partners from across the EU working on human embryonic stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cell technologies. The consortium has set up a top-level scientific course (winter school) which will run from 26-30 January 2009 in Saariselke, Finland. Up to 30 places are available to researchers who are not partners in the ESTOOLS consortium, and interested participants are encouraged to view further information on the ESTOOLS website via the link below. The closing date for applications to attend the course is **31 October 2008**. Your contact point for further information is Sebastien Duprat based in Sheffield (e-mail: sduprat@estools.eu).

[Programme and Registration Information](#)

2009 Summer School on Ethical and Policy Issues at the Cutting Edge of Stem Cell Science, Harvard University, USA, 15-19 June 2009

The Harvard Stem Cell Institute (Kevin Eggan) and Case Western Reserve University (Insoo Hyun) have teamed up to deliver a world-class summer school in June 2009 which is open to participation from overseas. This will be held at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts from 15-19 June 2009. Prospective participants should contact Insoo Hyun at insoo.hyun@case.edu for further details and regular updates.

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

This Masters by Research in Tissue Engineering for Regenerative Medicine (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. Delivering practical experience in the core technologies relevant to tissue repair, engineering and regeneration, the MRes TERM provides training beyond the traditional boundaries of stem cell differentiation and self-renewal. Incorporating the use of 'smart' biomaterials and biopolymers the course aims to equip students with a research-intense insight into the challenges of tissue engineering and clinical applications. 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 challenges of commercialisation. With industrial input from the likes of Smith & Nephew, the MRes provides an ideal platform for career progression into commercial settings, medical specialisation or PhD training. In recognition of the quality of this new Masters, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) studentships are also available to UK/EU candidates for 2008/09 entry.

For further information please visit the University of Manchester website at the following address:

<http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/mres/term>

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 <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/human-development/PGCOURSES/> or by e-mailing mscstem@nottingham.ac.uk.

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

This new 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 http://www.shef.ac.uk/bms/prospective_pg/masters or contact Professor Steve Winder s.winder@sheffield.ac.uk

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: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/bio-sci/pgstudies/mres.html>

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 the Universities of Durham and Newcastle - has completed the first intake into the new Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine Master of Research programme, in October 2007. Students will 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 will be provided by internationally-recognised researchers at both universities drawn from across the wide breadth of biological, biomedical and medical sciences. Research projects will be available in both Durham and Newcastle.

For further information about the post, e-mail: mres@nesci.ac.uk. Background details on the broader MRes are available at <http://medical.faculty.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/mres>. To apply, please visit: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/>.

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

This taught Masters course aims to provide 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. Further information is available at the following URL:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/research/istm/mscbio.htm>

INFORMATION

PATENT WATCHING IN THE STEM CELL FIELD

The UKNSCN has recently been surveying the research community's views on patenting in the stem cell field, via its key contacts in UK universities, seeking opinion on the potential effects of inappropriately broad patents, UKIPO examination procedures, accessibility of patent information through databases, and the possibility of UKNSCN providing a monthly digest of published patents in the broad field of stem cell research to aid awareness. This has raised a number of issues which members of the UKNSCN Steering Committee have been considering. As a first step, therefore, please find below a link to a very useful patents database *GB Espacenet* in case you were unaware of its existence. To anyone who has not used this facility before, it is not particularly easy to spot under which heading stem cell patents generally appear. You need to search under the classification codes **C12N5** and **A61K** to begin finding the relevant information.

http://gb.espacenet.com/search97cgi/s97_cgi.exe?Action=FormGen&Template=gb/EN/home.hts

UPDATE FROM THE UK STEM CELL BANK

Cell Line Availability

The list of stem cell lines currently available from the bank is given below. These are all hESC lines intended solely for research purposes. In addition there are eight cell lines banked and awaiting release and a further 22 either waiting to be banked or in production. For further information on obtaining and depositing cell lines see www.ukstemcellbank.org.uk.

Cell Lines Currently Available from the UK Stem Cell Bank

Cell Line	UKSCB Accession Number		Cell Line	UKSCB Accession Number
SHEF1	R-05-007		SHEF7	R-07-008
SHEF2	R-05-028		hES-NCL-1	R-05-015
SHEF3	R-05-008		KCL-001-WT3	R-06-021
SHEF4	R-05-029		NOTT1	R-07-001
SHEF6	R-05-031		NOTT2	R-07-002

Improving UKSCB Procedures

The Bank has been working with the secretariat for its Steering Committee to establish smoother and more expedient processes for obtaining access to cell lines. It is anticipated that at the end of the summer modifications to the UKSCB website will be made to enable on-line applications to obtain cell lines which, provided they meet certain criteria, will receive rapid approval by email.

The Bank's Steering Committee has also instigated a Commercial Working Group to consider the needs of commercial users of the Bank in delivery of stem cell products and discuss potential solutions to some of the key commercial challenges for the Bank in supplying commercial users. This group will report back to the Steering Committee in the autumn and the Bank plans to begin implementing appropriate enhanced procedures as soon as Steering Committee approval is given.

UKSCB International Collaborations

1) International Stem Cell Forum

The Bank is engaged in a number of the international collaborations funded by the International Stem Cell Forum. It has now coordinated two meetings on stem cell banking as part of the International Stem Cell Banking Initiative. These meetings have

attracted contributors from 17 countries and additional organisations such as ISSCR and SNAP. The first meeting in Bar Harbor in 2007 established a draft guidance document on the banking and distribution of hESCs for researcher purposes. This consensus guidance is available on the ISCF website at www.stemcellforum.org/ . Comments are invited on this document by the end of June when it will be taken forward for publication. The second cell banking meeting considered the requirements for banks of cell lines intended for clinical use. It is aimed to produce a document outlining 'points to consider' in establishing such cell banks for clinical use and also to provide information on ethics and cell therapy product regulation in different parts of the world.

2) **The European Human ESC Registry: 'hESCreg'**

The Bank is a partner in the hESCreg project which aims to provide a central information resource for work with human stem cell lines and a formal list of cell lines appropriate for use by European scientists. The project had its public launch and first scientific symposium in January in Berlin and currently has an excess of 200 stem cell lines documented in draft format on its database. During 2008 an ethical review process will be developed with input from the European Group on Ethics and the International Stem Forum Ethics Working Party. All current cell line data entries will be reviewed at a meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board and Steering Committee at the end of 2008. For more information on the hESCreg project see www.hescreg.eu .

To contact the bank, please send e-mail to enquiries@ukstemcellbank.org.uk.

Glyn Stacey, UK Stem Cell Bank

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

The ESRC Stem Cell Initiative is issuing quarterly electronic bulletins to report on the latest social science research in stem cells and regenerative medicine. The **fourth** issue is now available at the following link and examines the conduct of stem cell research and its regulation in Australia. There are updates on research activities and events which are of particular interest to stem cell social scientists.

[Fourth Electronic Bulletin](#)

If you wish to receive future ESRC bulletins automatically, you should send a request by E-mail to Stephanie Hazel-Gant at sjg11@york.ac.uk.

END