

From: Senior Programme Manager (UKNSCN)
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To: Senior Programme Manager (UKNSCN)
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Attachments: UKMSCMeetingFlyer.pdf; CDA Israel 2008 flyer 26-8-08.doc

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the twelfth 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 **1350** 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
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NEWS

REMINDER: ON-LINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE 2009 UKNSCN ANNUAL SCIENCE MEETING [OXFORD, UK 6-8 APRIL 2009]

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

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

The registration site includes separate information pages for delegates, exhibitors, poster presenters, sponsors and speakers. You are advised to read these before proceeding to registration. The speaker programme for the conference is nearing completion and will be available for downloading from the registration site shortly. In the meantime, prospective delegates may wish to note that the programme will again feature some of the latest and best research in UK stem cell

science, together with world class keynote speakers from overseas on each of the three days as follows:

Day 1: **Dame Anne McLaren Memorial Lecture** - Prof Janet Rossant, Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto, Canada

Day 2: Keynote 2 - Prof Robert Nerem, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA
(also **Conference Dinner** - eminent after-dinner speaker to be confirmed)

Day 3: Keynote 3 - Prof Joseph Vacanti, Harvard Medical School, USA

In addition, and backed by popular demand from delegates at the inaugural conference in Edinburgh, the programme includes six parallel workshops spread over days 2 and 3 to which you can sign up during the registration process. These are immunology, ESCs, MSCs, translation and commercialisation, HSCs, and cardiac and pulmonary regeneration.

INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF UKNSCN - ON-LINE SURVEY OF RESEARCH COMMUNITY IMMINENT

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. Within the next week, all 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 be held in London on 20 January 2009.

UK/ISRAEL STEM CELL COLLABORATION AWARDS

The Science and Innovation Network (SIN) of the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office has recently announced a UK-Israel Stem Cell Collaboration Awards Scheme. This is open to UK or Israel-based researchers involved in stem cell research and therapeutics, and is designed to facilitate the communications of ideas, techniques and information between UK and Israeli researchers via short visits between research institutions. Travel grants of up to £4000 are available. Further details are available in the attached flyer, which includes a hyperlink to the CDA application form. The deadline for applications is **14 November 2008**.

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

The UK's Medical Research Council (MRC) has recently announced a new responsive mode funding scheme and two calls-for-proposals in translational stem cell research. The first closing date for outline proposals to the new **Translational Stem Cell Research Committee (TSCRC)** has now passed and the next closing date will fall in January or February (to be announced). Further information is available via the link below, or from Catriona Crombie at catriona.crombie@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk.

[TSCRC Further Details](#)

The second of the two calls-for-proposals in **Pre-clinical Stem Cell Research** is still open to applications (deadline: **5 November**). Further details are available at the link below and £3m is available for project grants addressing the pre-clinical barriers that exist towards the therapeutic use of stem cells.

[Pre-clinical Stem Cell Research](#)

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

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 are 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 was **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 SSCN 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 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-intensive 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/depts/aa/postgraduate/courses/biomedical.html>

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. If you find this link does not work from this circular, please cut-and-paste the address into your browser URL bar.

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

UPDATE FROM THE UK STEM CELL BANK**Cell Line Availability**

The list of stem cell lines (14) currently available from the bank is given below. These are all hESC lines intended solely for research purposes. In addition, there are a further 19 lines banked and waiting release in the near future. For further information on obtaining and depositing cell lines see <http://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		NCL-1	R-05-015
SHEF2	R-05-028		NCL-2	R-07-014
SHEF3	R-05-008		NCL-3	R-07-015
SHEF4	R-05-029		NCL-4	R-07-016
SHEF6	R-05-031		NCL-5	R-07-017
SHEF7	R-07-008		KCL-001-WT3	R-06-021
NOTT1	R-07-001		NOTT2	R-07-002

The Bank's Steering Committee recently 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. The report from this group is imminent and will be publicly available shortly. The Bank plans to begin implementing appropriate enhanced procedures as soon as Steering Committee approval is given for the release of the report.

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