

From: Senior Programme Manager (UKNSCN)

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To: Senior Programme Manager (UKNSCN)

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Attachments: Programme - NWSCN Inaugural Meeting - 12th January 2009, UoM.pdf; 14th Quarterly update.pdf; 0812 Announcement flyer.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the fourteenth 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 **1400** 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. If you wish to contribute items to the next bulletin, issue 15 will be circulated on **22 January**. Thank you.

Ben Sykes

Coordinator, UK National Stem Cell Network

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NEWS

UKNSCN REVIEW AND OPEN COMMUNITY MEETING 20 JANUARY 2009, LONDON: FREE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE

The independent review of the UKNSCN is now nearing completion, with consultants People Science and Policy Limited due to deliver their written report to the Research Councils sponsors of the Network by the end of this week. The review process will culminate in an Open Community Meeting on **20 January** at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in central London, commencing at 10am. This meeting is open to all stakeholders in stem cell science and its associated disciplines, and is **free-of-charge**. However, you must register in advance since places are limited to 284 and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis. The meeting is your chance to make your views known in public and help shape the future of the UKNSCN. The consultants will present their report and the UKNSCN will respond, before discussion is opened to the floor. The outcomes from the meeting will directly influence how the sponsors structure and fund the Network during its main delivery phase over the next 3-5 years. The meeting is being organised by the sponsors rather than UKNSCN itself, and you should therefore register your attendance by sending an e-mail request to the following address: UKNSCN.Registration@bbsrc.ac.uk.

Fuller details are available via the events section of the UKNSCN website at the link below. Please note that a **new Chairman** and **five new Steering Committee members** will be appointed to UKNSCN from 1 April 2009 and that you are also now invited to nominate suitable individuals from the community to fulfil these roles. Information on these roles and the particular expertise required is also provided at the link below, together with full instructions for confidential nomination. Nominations should be sent to

the following e-mail address: UKNSCN.Nominations@bbsrc.ac.uk.

[Community Meeting Details and Nominations Instructions](#)

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 now available for downloading from the registration site. 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.

UKNSCN ON-LINE DISCUSSION FORUM LAUNCHED

The pilot phase for the UKNSCN's new On-Line Discussion Forum is now complete and a number of UKNSCN members have registered to contribute. The on-line software has now been re-launched with three new fora aimed at helping the stem cell research community to share expertise and materials, discuss the UKNSCN 2009 annual science meeting and arrange meetings, and continue to offer suggestions for future UKNSCN activities. As a stakeholder in some aspect of stem cell research and its translation, you are warmly invited to join the Discussion Forum and expand this new on-line community dedicated to UK stem cell science. New fora can be suggested to the UKNSCN Coordinator (Forum Moderator) at any time, the idea being that you the community shape the Forum into something which you find useful and which has an extensive membership. You can register to use the Forum at the link below. Please read the Forum Rules before registering and happy posting!

<http://www.uknscn.org/discussion/index.html>

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 be **13 January**. Additional closing dates for 2009 have now also been set and further information is available via the link below, or from Catriona Crombie at [catriona.crombie@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk](mailto:crombie@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk).

[TSCRC Further Information and 2009 Closing Dates](#)

MRC AND BBSRC PUBLISH STEM CELLS PUBLIC DIALOGUE REPORT

The MRC and BBSRC yesterday published a 152-page report on a public dialogue project in stem cells funded by the DIUS Sciencewise Programme. The findings of the report were publicised at an evening meeting in London held yesterday (17 December) at One Great George Street. The meeting included an audience Q&A session with a panel comprising the Science Minister and the Chief Executives of MRC and BBSRC. To read further information and download a copy of the full report, please view the following link:

[Further Information and Download Report](#)

[Project Podcasts with Leading Stem Cell Scientists](#)

FOURTEENTH QUARTERLY UPDATE ON STEM CELLS FROM CALIFORNIA AND THE WIDER USA

Attached to this bulletin (second PDF) you will find the 14th quarterly update from our contact in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Science and Innovation Network based in California. This includes stem cell-related news from around the USA, in particular news of the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by CIRM and the MRC, and the likely lifting of the Bush ban on NIH funding for hESC research by the incoming Obama administration.

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](#)

APPOINTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN STEM CELL RESEARCH

Don't forget that you can use the UKNSCN website free-of-charge to advertise UK-based (only) appointments in stem cell science and its related disciplines. Just send a PDF to the UKNSCN Coordinator and we'll do the rest!

[Current Appointment Opportunities](#)

EVENTS

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 has now passed, but registration is still open until 15 December.

[Further Details and Registration](#)

North West England Stem Cell Network (NWSCN) Inaugural Science Meeting, Manchester, UK, 12 January 2009: FREE PLACES

The newly established North West England Stem Cell Network will be holding its first regional meeting on 12 January at the University of Manchester. Programme details are available in the attached flyer (first PDF) and interested delegates can register by sending an e-mail request to Andrea Evans at andrea.evans@manchester.ac.uk.

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:

<http://www.selectbiosciences.com/conferences/SCWC2009/index.aspx>

59th Annual Conference of the British Microcirculation Society, University of Birmingham, UK, 30 March-1 April 2009

The British Microcirculation Society's next meeting in March/April 2009 includes a designated symposium on *Stem Cells in the Vasculature* in which leading international stem cell scientists have been invited to present their work. All relevant information about the meeting is available via the link below. The deadline for both abstracts and registration is **16 January 2009**.

[Further Details and Registration](#)

Technology Transfer Forum on Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine, San Francisco, California, USA, 15 April 2009

The UK FCO's Science & Innovation Network (SIN) is organising a Technology Transfer Forum on STEM CELL RESEARCH and REGENERATIVE MEDICINE in partnership with the University of California and the Canadian Consulates in California. The event will take place on 15 April 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel near San Francisco Airport. The Forum will showcase university research with potential for commercialisation and as investment opportunities for angel investors, venture capitalists, and company representatives with an interest in licensing inventions or forming startups. The Forum will also be an excellent opportunity to network and strengthen ties and collaborations between the UK, California and Canada stem cell and regenerative medicine communities. Last year's tech transfer event drew an audience of around 300 participants composed of one third researchers, one third VCs and one third industry. Attendance is free, but by invitation only. For more information about the forum, or to register, please see the attached flyer (third PDF). Your SIN contact for this Forum is Maike Rentel: Maike.Rentel@britishconsulatesf.gov.uk.

2009 World Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine Congress, London, UK, 12-14 May 2009

The fourth annual commercial congress on Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine will take place at One Whitehall Place in London from 12-14 May 2009. Further details are available at the link below.

[Conference Programme and Registration Information](#)

7th ISSCR Annual Meeting, Barcelona, Spain, 8-11 July 2009

The ISSCR's seventh annual science meeting will take place in Barcelona, Spain from 8-11 July 2009. This is the first time the meeting has been held in Europe. On-line registration opens on 6 January 2009. In the meantime, further details are available at the link below:

[ISSCR 2009 Meeting Website](#)

COURSES

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

Five BBSRC Masters studentships are available to candidates seeking entry on the MRes in Tissue Engineering for Regenerative Medicine (TERM) for 2009/10. These distinguished studentships are available to UK/EU applicants and provide full coverage of tuition fees in addition to a tax-free stipend of £13,290. 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.

Places for 2009/10 entry are limited so early application is encouraged. For further information, visit the University of Manchester website:

<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/postgrad/mres/mrrmprogspec.htm>

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://www.ncl.ac.uk/biomedicine/assets/documents/Mres_Strand/Stem.pdf. To apply, please visit: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/>.

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## 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>

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## INFORMATION

### PATENT WATCHING IN THE STEM CELL FIELD

The UKNSCN is currently in the process of negotiating a patents information service on your behalf. This will likely take the form of a monthly, or bi-monthly, patents digest which will be available to download from the UKNSCN website. A **pilot project** has now been agreed with the UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) in which they will provide a breakdown of published and granted patents, together with a separation into adult, embryonic and iPS cells for the period **1 November to 18 December 2008**. This will be available to view as a PDF document on the UKNSCN website **in January** and will include basic bibliographic information such as patent number, author and affiliation, publication date, granting date, title and abstract. UKNSCN invites your feedback on the format and usefulness of this document when it is posted, which will dictate whether we proceed with a future regular patents digest as indicated above. There is of course a cost to UKNSCN for this service.

In the meantime, 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](http://gb.espacenet.com/search97cgi/s97_cgi.exe?Action=FormGen&Template=gb/EN/home.htm)

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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.

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