

From: Executive Director (UKNSCN)
Sent: 30 April 2009 09:32
To: Executive Director (UKNSCN)
Subject: UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN): News & Events Bulletin 16

Attachments: BHF Symposium - 5th June 09 .pdf; 15th Quarterly update _2_.pdf
Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the sixteenth 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 - see <http://www.uknscn.org/events/index.html>. These communications are complemented by more formal UKNSCN Newsletters which are also available to download from the website. You have received this communication by virtue of your inclusion in the UKNSCN's correspondence list, which UKNSCN operates in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. 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
- you have requested inclusion in the list
- you have attended the UKNSCN annual scientific meeting

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 1600 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 17 will be circulated on 28 May. Thank you.

Ben Sykes
Executive Director, UK National Stem Cell Network
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Website: <http://www.uknscn.org>

NEWS

UKNSCN RE-STRUCTURING AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Following the short presentations to the community at the UKNSCN's second annual science meeting in Oxford, the Network's sponsors are now organising a first meeting of the new UKNSCN Management Board for next month, and starting the appointments process for the new (expanded) Scientific Advisory Committee. The Committee will comprise around 20 members appointed against an expertise template drawn up by the sponsors, and the basic template will be published by the sponsors very shortly. In addition, the sponsors have re-appointed the Network's Coordinator as Executive Director of the UKNSCN who will report to the Management Board. The Management Board will include the new chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee, once he/she has been appointed.

The full UKNSCN review report (in which the recommendations for re-structuring appear) remains available for downloading from the UKNSCN website at the following link:

[UKNSCN Review Report \(59 pages\)](#)

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### UKNSCN SECOND ANNUAL SCIENCE MEETING - **FEEDBACK REQUESTED**

Now that the UKNSCN's annual science meeting is over for another year, the time has come to collate feedback on the Oxford meeting and use it to make things even better for 2010. We have some feedback forms already, which were left at the registration desk, but by no means all of you who attended have completed a form. The form is included at the end of your conference booklet and can simply be torn out, completed and popped in the post. Please can I encourage as many of you as possible to either do this or provide written feedback in a short e-mail to [uksa@uknscn.org](mailto:uksa@uknscn.org). Your views are very important in shaping future UKNSCN conferences.

The dates for the 2010 conference were announced in Oxford and are: 24th-26th March 2010. Please book the dates in your diary; the venue will be announced next month.

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STEM CELL TOURISM - PUBLICATION OF UKNSCN POSITION STATEMENT

The UKNSCN has just published a position statement on the emerging phenomenon of "stem cell tourism", which is now available via the UKNSCN website under the 'Downloads' section, and via the link below. In the main, this is intended as a source of objective advice for the general public, patients and the media, though UKNSCN hopes that many of you will make reference to the statement when you are contacted by individuals making enquiries about the availability of "therapies" overseas.

[Position Statement on Stem Cell Tourism](#)

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### UKNSCN ON-LINE DISCUSSION FORUM

You are reminded that the UKNSCN on-line discussion forum currently has 3 fora open for contributions as follows:

- Expertise Exchange Forum
- Patenting in Stem Cells Forum
- Future Role of UKNSCN Forum

Anyone can join the Forum via a short, on-line registration process which enables you to contribute postings. You can access the Forum at the link below:

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

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INITIAL REGULATORY ROUTE MAP FOR UK STEM CELL RESEARCH & MANUFACTURE PUBLISHED

The first version of an 'Interim UK Regulatory Route Map for Stem Cell Research and Manufacture' has been released jointly by UK regulators as a reference tool for those who wish to develop a programme of stem cell research and manufacture, ultimately leading to clinical application. The map has been developed by the Department of Health with the support of the Gene Therapy Advisory Committee, Health & Safety Executive, Home Office, Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority, Human Tissue Authority, Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Medical Research Council, NHS Blood & Transplant Authority, Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service, Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues & Organs, & the UK Stem Cell Bank.

You can download the route map at the link below. This is a work in progress and the Department of Health's Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC) welcomes feedback on this map, which can be sent to gtac@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

[Download Regulatory Route Map](#)

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#### 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 in translational stem cell research. The first two closing dates for outline proposals to the new Translational Stem Cell Research Committee (TSCRC) have now passed and the next closing date is imminent: 6 May. Two further closing dates for 2009 have 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](#)

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UK-USA STEM CELL COLLABORATION AWARDS - THIRD ROUND CLOSING DATE APPROACHING [8TH MAY]

The UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has recently announced a third round of funding for its UK-USA Stem Cell Collaboration Development Awards. The scheme is open to UK- or USA-based stem cell researchers who are at group leader or Principal Investigator level within academic or non-profit research institutions. In exceptional cases, post-doctoral fellows will be considered. The scheme also includes applications from academic researchers seeking collaborations with companies.

Up to £4,000 is available for travel from the applicant's home country to either the US or the UK. The 2009 UK-USA Stem Cell CDA is designed to support the development of new collaborations in the field of stem cell science, and can only be used to fund travel between groups who do not already have on-going, formal collaborations. The closing date for applications to the third round is 8th May 2009. You can download the application form at the link below.

[Download Application Form](#)

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#### HFE ACT RETROSPECTIVE CONFERENCE: SLIDES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

On 12th March, the ESRC's Genomics Forum hosted a 'retrospective' conference on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, examining the nature of the debate leading up to the Act and how that debate influenced the policymaking process. Presentation slides and audio recordings from this meeting have now been made available on the Genomics Forum's website at the link below, and include Phil Willis MP - chairman of the Innovation, Universities and Skills Select Committee.

[View Presentations and Listen to Audio Recordings](#)

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## NEW HFEA WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The new HFEA website was launched on 15 April after a major redesign of the website's visual style and an update of its content. This is the start of a series of improvements to come over the summer. The improvements include more detailed treatment information, which will support patients in making informed choices and give them a better understanding of their chances of success. Patients will now have a clearer picture of what their treatment journey will involve. The website serves as an independent information resource about fertility treatment and clinics.

[HFEA Website](#)

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## EUROPEAN HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL REGISTRY - FIRST NEWSLETTER ISSUED

On the first anniversary of its formation, the European Human Embryonic Stem Cell Registry has published its first newsletter which includes useful information on regulatory developments at the European level. The newsletter can be downloaded at the link below.

[Download Newsletter](#)

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## FIFTEENTH QUARTERLY UPDATE ON STEM CELL RESEARCH & REGENERATIVE MEDICINE FROM CALIFORNIA AND THE WIDER USA

Attached to this bulletin, you will find the 15th quarterly update from UKNSCN's contact at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in California. This contains very useful information on the federal developments in stem cell policy, CIRM bond difficulties and the MRC-CIRM joint call-for-proposals.

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## EVENTS

ESRC Stem Cell Initiative Final Conference: ***Beyond Pattison - Challenges for Stem Cell Translation & Policy***, London, UK, 7-8 May 2009

The ESRC-funded Stem Cell Initiative will be holding its final international conference next month, titled *Beyond Pattison: Challenges for Stem Cell Translation and Policy*. This will take place at the Wellcome Trust Collection in London on 7-8th May. Attendance is open to all and places are still available; modest registration fees apply. It is nearly 5 years since the Pattison Report provided an agenda for research within the UK for the field of stem cells and more broadly regenerative medicine. This ESRC-funded conference examines the results of the social science Stem Cell Initiative and their implications for UK and more global activity in the field and asks what have been the main developments since 2005 and how will these shape the future.

The second day offers a more global perspective through first reports on the FP7 REMEDiE project on regenerative medicine in Europe and beyond so providing a broader context within which to explore the field. The "beyond" Pattison, then, has two senses, relating to both changes over time and a geographical reference of developments that are beyond the UK itself. Further details are available via the link below.

## [Registration and Further Details](#)

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Training Course on Communicating Stem Cell Research, Edinburgh, UK, 12-13 May 2009

This is a specialist training event designed specifically for stem cell scientists and includes a real dialogue event with members of the public. It therefore offers the opportunity to improve communication skills and plan practical public engagement activities. It will be held in Edinburgh over two days (12-13th May) and a few places may still be available (fees apply). If you are interested in participating, please access the link below; the registration deadline has officially passed, though there may be a last-minute opportunity to register.

## [Application Form and Registration Details](#)

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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 the Royal Horseguards Hotel, One Whitehall Place in London from 12-14 May 2009. Further details are available at the link below.

## [Conference Programme and Registration Information](#)

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Next London Regenerative Medicine Network (LRMN) Evening Meeting, King's College London, UK, 14 May 2009

This will take place at the Guy's Hospital Campus of King's College London at New Hunt's House (two minutes' walk from London Bridge tube station) on 14 May, commencing at 6pm. The speaker programme for this event includes Dr Geoff MacKay, President and CEO of Organogenesis Inc. To register for this meeting, please contact Fiona Brown at: [fiona.brown@lrnm.com](mailto:fiona.brown@lrnm.com). The subsequent LRMN meeting will take place on 4 June.

Inaugural British Heart Foundation Centre of Research Excellence Symposium, London, UK, 5 June 2009

This one-day symposium is titled *Challenge and Innovation in Cardiovascular Therapeutics* and will take place in the Alexander Fleming Building at Imperial College London on Friday 5th June from 9am to 7.30pm. The programme features international speakers and, in particular, Session 3 focuses upon *Cell and Gene Therapy - Prometheus and Pandora?* The keynote lecture will be delivered by Professor Sir John Bell (University of Oxford) who will speak on *Orchestrating a National Translational Research Strategy*. Attendance at this symposium is free, but delegates must register in advance by contacting Dr Katie Payne at [k.payne@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:k.payne@imperial.ac.uk). The full programme is contained within the attached flyer.

Next Meeting of the Scottish Stem Cell Biology Group, Edinburgh, UK, 2 July 2009

The next meeting of the Scottish Stem Cell Biology Group, sponsored by the Scottish Stem Cell Network, will take place at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh on 2 July 2009 and is titled *Regeneration and Dedifferentiation*. Further information on invited speakers and registration is available via the link below, or

from Wend Wilson-Watt at [wend@sscn.co.uk](mailto:wend@sscn.co.uk).

### [Programme Information and Registration](#)

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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 opened on 6 January 2009 and the early registration discount deadline is approaching fast (14th May). Further details are available at the link below:

[ISSCR 2009 Meeting Website](#)

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2009 KIDSTEM Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh, UK, 29-31 July 2009

This year's KIDSTEM Annual Conference will take place from 29-31 July at the University of Edinburgh. KIDSTEM is a Marie Curie European Research Training Network dedicated to the application of stem cells in renal development, repair and regeneration. Registration forms are now available via the website below. Please direct enquiries to the project administrator Louise Cooper at: [louise.cooper@liv.ac.uk](mailto:louise.cooper@liv.ac.uk).

[KIDSTEM Conference Website](#)

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16th International Society of Developmental Biologists (ISDB) Congress, Edinburgh, UK, 6-10 September 2009

The 16th ISDB Congress takes place at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) from 6-10 September 2009, and includes a dedicated symposium session on *Stem Cells and Pluripotency*, sponsored by the UKNSCN. Further details and registration information are available via the congress website at the link below.

[Congress Website](#)

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John Innes Centre (JIC) Symposium: **Genetics 100 Years On**, John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK, 9-11 September 2009

To help celebrate 100 years of genetics at the John Innes Centre, the JIC will be hosting a major symposium featuring Sir Paul Nurse delivering the Bateson Lecture and Sydney Brenner concluding with "*Genetics 100 Years On*". UKNSCN has been asked to circulate this notice to the UK stem cell research community. For further information and registration details, please view the JIC website at the following link:

[John Innes Centre Centenary Symposium Further Details](#)

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Hydra V European Summer School on Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine, Hydra, Greece, 19-25 September 2009

The fifth week-long summer school on stem cells and regenerative medicine, organised by the EuroStemCell consortium (FP7), will again take place in Hydra, Greece from 19-25 September. The summer school is aimed at PhDs, post-doctoral researchers, emerging group leaders and research-active clinicians in the stem cell field, and is organised by Claire Blackburn and Austin Smith. The official closing date for applications passed on 24 April.

[Programme Details](#)

ICSCN Conference on Stem Cells and Bioinformatics, Edinburgh, UK, 21-22 September 2009

Under the auspices of the International Consortium of Stem Cell Networks (ICSCN), the Scottish Stem Cell Network (SSCN) will be hosting an international meeting on stem cells and bioinformatics in Edinburgh from 21-22 September 2009. This will take place at the Our Dynamic Earth venue. Further details concerning the programme and registration will become available shortly via the SSCN website at the link below.

[SSCN Website](#)

2009 Genetics Policy Institute World Stem Cell Summit, Baltimore, USA, 21-23 September 2009

The second GPI World Stem Cell Summit will take place at the Baltimore Convention Centre in Baltimore, Maryland from 21-23 September 2009. GPI anticipates the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit will attract more than 1200 of the world's most influential stem cell stakeholders in science, business, policy, law, ethics and advocacy. Additionally, 100 plus internationally renowned speakers will be present—producing a unique international network designed to foster collaborations, economic development, technology transfer, commercialisation, private investment and philanthropy. Registration is now open and full conference details can be found via the link below.

[Summit Details and Registration](#)

International Symposium on Stem Cell Transplantation in Multiple Sclerosis, Moscow, Russia, 5 October 2009

The Pirogov National Medical Surgical Centre in Moscow is leading the organisation of a major international symposium on stem cell transplantation in multiple sclerosis. This will take place at the Holiday Inn, Moscow Sokolniki on 5 October. Further details are available at the following link:

[Symposium Details and Registration](#)

4th World Conference on Regenerative Medicine, Leipzig, Germany, 29-31 October 2009

The fourth World Conference on Regenerative Medicine, organised by the Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology, will take place in Leipzig, Germany from 29-31 October 2009. The main topics covered in the programme will be: Stem Cells, Tissue Engineering, Technology Development, Immunology and Signalling, and Regulatory Affairs. Further details are available via the link below:

[Further Information and Registration](#)

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Major International Congress on Gene Therapy, Cell Therapy & Stem Cell Research, Hannover, Germany, 20-25 November 2009

Four major societies in the fields of gene therapy, cell therapy, stem cell biology and regenerative science are combining to hold a unique international meeting on gene and cell therapy (with a focus on regeneration) at the Hannover Convention Centre in Hannover, Germany from 20-25 November 2009. Registration opened on 18 April and is available via the link below; the deadline for the early registration discount is 15 September.

## [Further Details](#)

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Network for European Cell Transplantation and Repair (NECTAR) Conference, Cardiff, UK, 26-28 November 2009

The NECTAR annual conference is this year being organised by the Brain Repair Group at Cardiff University, Wales, and will be held at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff from 26-28 November 2009. This conference provides a unique opportunity for researchers to come together to discuss and plan progress on cell and gene therapy related to the nervous system. It has evolved as the primary and most focused international meeting in Europe on neural repair and neuro-regeneration, and is expected to take on further importance in the future as stem cell technologies improve and progress ever closer towards clinical trials. The NECTAR network is now in its 18th year, originally established by researchers working on Parkinson's and Huntington's Diseases. Interested delegates should contact Anne-Marie McGorrian at mcorriana@cardiff.ac.uk, or view the website below.

[Further Information](#)

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.

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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/>

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

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

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

This new 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](http://www.shef.ac.uk/bms/prospective_pg/masters) or contact Professor Steve Winder [s.winder@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto: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>

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

The North-East England Stem Cell Institute (NESCI) - a collaboration between 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

Following a successful pilot project with good feedback from the community, the UKNSCN is continuing with two-monthly digests on patents information produced in conjunction with the Intellectual Property Office. The pilot digest for November-December 2008 is still available for downloading from the UKNSCN website via the link below, and this link will be shortly updated with a new digest for January-February 2009.

[http://www.uknscn.org/downloads/patent\\_digests.html](http://www.uknscn.org/downloads/patent_digests.html)

## UPDATE FROM THE UK STEM CELL BANK

## Cell Line Availability

The list of stem cell lines (15) 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               |
| MEL-1     | R-08-001               |  |             |                        |

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](mailto:enquiries@ukstemcellbank.org.uk).

Glyn Stacey, UK Stem Cell Bank

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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 fifth issue is now available at the following link and examines the scale-up of stem cell research. There are updates on research activities and events which are of particular interest to stem cell social scientists.

[Fifth Electronic Bulletin](#)

If you wish to receive future ESRC bulletins automatically, you should send a request by E-mail to Stephanie Hazel-Gant at sig11@york.ac.uk.

END