

From: Executive Director (UKNSCN)
Sent: 06 August 2009 17:12
To: Executive Director (UKNSCN)
Subject: UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN): News & Events Bulletin 19

Attachments: CGDCall6July2009.pdf; Adult_stem_cells_Conf_Programme.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the nineteenth 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 former 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 meetings

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 1700 individuals, covering the following diversity of stakeholders: academics (of many disciplines), industrialists, charities, learned societies, professional associations, lawyers, venture capitalists, regulatory bodies, journalists, MPs and government and Research Council officials. UKNSCN requests that you forward this message to interested colleagues who might not have received it and who may wish to then request that their E-mail address is included. If you wish to contribute items to the next bulletin, issue 20 will be circulated on 3 September. Thank you.

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

NEWS

NEW GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR UKNSCN NOW IN PLACE

The Network's current sponsors - BBSRC, MRC, EPSRC and ESRC - have now completed the re-structuring of UKNSCN in response to the independent review published earlier this year. The Network's Executive Director now reports to a new Management Board of 8 members, with scientific support provided through an expert Advisory Committee of 20 members. The sponsors have recently appointed Dr Catherine Prescott of Biolatris Ltd to chair the Advisory Committee during its first year. For the full memberships of both the Management Board and the Advisory Committee, and an explanation of their respective roles and how they will work together, please view the links to the UKNSCN website below.

[About UKNSCN](#)

[Management Board](#)

[Advisory Committee](#)

UKNSCN THIRD ANNUAL SCIENCE MEETING 2010 - DATES AND VENUE SET

You are reminded that next year's UKNSCN Annual Scientific Meeting will take place from 12-14 July 2010 at the University of Nottingham's East Midlands Conference Centre (EMCC). Please book the dates in your diary and view the conference homepage now 'live' on the UKNSCN's website at the first link below. A formal press release was issued in July, announcing that the Dame Anne McLaren Memorial Lecturer for next year and will be Fiona Watt from Cancer Research UK in Cambridge.

The conference has been moved to the summer on this occasion due to the limited Easter availability of suitable venues (with accommodation) for the number of delegates UKNSCN meetings now attract. This has also led to UKNSCN planning now for the 2011 meeting. The dates and venue for the 2011 meeting will be announced very shortly as soon as a contract has been signed - we will be returning to holding the meeting in the Spring time in 2011.

[2010 Conference Homepage](#)

[UKNSCN Press Releases](#)

SUMMARY REPORT AND PHOTO GALLERY NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2009 MEETING

A short summary report, together with photos from UKNSCN's appointed photographer, for this year's annual scientific meeting in Oxford is available for viewing on the UKNSCN website. Please see the link below, which we hope will evoke some happy memories of a stimulating and enjoyable conference.

[UKNSCN 2009 Conference Summary and Photo Gallery](#)

FOURTH UKNSCN PATENTS DIGEST FOR THE STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMUNITY

You are reminded that a fourth 'digest' of patents in stem cell research has now been produced in conjunction with the Intellectual Property Office. This was circulated to you all on 16 July and is available as a PDF download from the UKNSCN website at the link below:

[Download Patents Digest](#)

This is a two-month report covering the period 1 May 2009 to 30 June 2009 which provides a breakdown of both published and granted patents during this period in three areas: adult stem cells, embryonic stem cells and iPS cells/de-differentiation. In addition, following feedback received from you after publication of the 'pilot' digest at the beginning of the year, we have also published the search strategy used to generate this digest. This is available as an Annex to the report.

This report is 42 pages long and contains brief bibliographic information on 152 patents designed to enable you to pick out relevant patents and conduct your own further study on the relevant database using the patent number. It is interesting to note that the report includes the first patents granted within the iPS field, so far as this search strategy is concerned. The report contains:

132 published patents: 96 adult, 24 embryonic, 12 iPS
20 granted patents: 14 adult, 4 embryonic, 2 iPS

MHRA DRAFT GUIDANCE ON ADVANCED THERAPY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS (ATMPs) [UK ONLY]

On 15th July, the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) published its draft guidance on the proposed UK exemption scheme for ATMPs which will apply here in the UK from the autumn. It is keen to ensure that the documents it has produced (downloadable at the link below) to guide product developers are fit-for-purpose and cover as many as possible of the likely questions and issues which may come up. The documents also include an impact assessment for the new exemption arrangements. To this end, the MHRA is inviting comments on the documentation up until 18 September 2009. Please send any comments you may have by e-mail to Caroline Brennan at caroline.brennan@mhra.gsi.gov.uk.

[View MHRA Guidance Documents](#)

FIRST MRC STEM CELL RESEARCH TRANSLATION AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Medical Research Council recently announced funding for seven awards totalling £4.7 million under its translational stem cell research scheme. This includes nearly £3 million for four early stage clinical trials involving adult stem cells. These trials will assess various aspects of stem cell biology – using stem cell transplantation to address blindness and bone repair, to activate dormant stem cells within the body to treat Addison's disease and to target the elimination of cancerous stem cells responsible for chronic myeloid leukaemia. More information can be found at the link below:

[Stem Cell Projects Pave the Way for New Therapies](#)

CALL-FOR-PROPOSALS IN iPS CELLS - CGD RESEARCH TRUST [UK ONLY]

The Chronic Granulomatous Disorder (CGD) Research Trust recently announced a call-for-proposals to derive and characterise research-grade iPS cell lines from CGD patients. Funding of up to £100k is available over two years, and the closing date for applications is 7 September 2009. More comprehensive details have been provided by the CGD Research Trust and are attached to this message as a PDF.

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

The UK's Medical Research Council (MRC) continues to operate its new responsive mode funding scheme in translational stem cell research. The first three closing dates for outline proposals to the new Translational Stem Cell Research Committee (TSCRC) have now passed and the next closing date is 26 August 2009. There will be one more closing date in 2009 (9 December) and further information on 2010 closing dates will be available in due course via the link below, or from Catriona Crombie at catriona.crombie@headoffice.mrc.ac.uk.

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

STEM CELLS FOR SAFER MEDICINES (SC4SM) PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Professor Frank Bonner is to be the new chief executive of Stem Cells for Safer Medicines (SC4SM), the public-private partnership whose aim is to develop stem cell technology for use in early stage medicine testing. SC4SM's full press release is available for viewing at the link below.

[SC4SM Press Release 20 July 2009](#)

APPOINTMENTS IN STEM CELL RESEARCH AND TRANSLATION

Don't forget that you can view available UK-based appointments in stem cell science and translation on the UKNSCN website at the link below. If you first see a vacancy on this site for which you subsequently apply, please acknowledge the UKNSCN in your application if asked where you saw the vacancy advertised. You can also use this site to advertise your own posts (UK only) by sending a request to the UKNSCN Executive Director. This service is free-of-charge at present.

[Current Appointments](#)

EVENTS

NESCI Conference: Adult Stem Cells in Regenerative Medicine and Disease, Newcastle, UK, 26-27 August 2009

The Northeast England Stem Cell Institute (NESCI) and the Institute of Cellular Medicine at Newcastle University are jointly hosting a meeting on *Adult Stem Cells in Regenerative Medicine and Disease* at the Civic Centre in Newcastle on 26-27 August. The updated speaker programme (see attached PDF) includes top UK speakers in addition to international keynote speakers from the USA and Canada. A couple of speakers will be selected from submitted abstracts. Registration forms (fees apply) are available from the NESCI website at the link below; the deadline for registration and also for submitting abstracts was 5 August. Contact Helen Clamp to discuss the possibility of late abstract submission and registration: helen.clamp@newcastle.ac.uk

[Programme Details and Registration Information](#)

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. Delegate places are still available, though discounted rates no longer apply.

[Congress Website](#)

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:

[Centenary Symposium Further Details](#)

East of England Stem Cell Network (EESCN) One Day Workshop, Cambridge, UK, 15 September 2009

The East of England Stem Cell Network (EESCN) is collaborating with bioProcessUK to co-host a one-day workshop on **Development and Manufacturing of Regenerative Medicinal Products** which will take place in Cambridge on 15 September. Further details will become available via the EESCN website in due course.

[East of England Stem Cell Network Website](#)

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 are now available via the SSCN website at the link below, or from Jenna Chambers at jenna@sscn.co.uk. The programme includes a number of speaker slots yet to be filled by students and postdocs selected from abstracts submitted. The deadline for the submission of abstracts of no more than 300 words is 14th August. Interested delegates can register for the workshop at the link below.

[SSCN Events Webpage](#)

2009 Genetics Policy Institute (GPI) 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.

The Co-Chairs of the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit will be selecting certain science posters from the pool of science posters submitted for formal presentation on a science panel at the summit. A researcher associated with the selected poster will have their registration, airfare and accommodation paid so they can attend and present their abstract. All posters submitted required one associated researcher to be displayed at the summit poster forum. Posters submitted to the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit that do not have a researcher present at the summit will only be displayed electronically at the website below. For further information, contact Alan Fernandez from the Genetics Policy Institute at: alan@genpol.org.

[Summit Details and Registration](#)

Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine Europe/World Biobanking Summit, Edinburgh, UK, 23-25 September 2009

The third annual Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine Europe Summit will take place at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, UK from 23-25 September. Further details are available via the link below.

[Programme Details](#)

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](#)

New York Stem Cell Foundation 4th Annual Translational Stem Cell Research Conference, New York, USA, 13-14 October 2009

The NYSCF annual conference is unique: it focuses on translational stem cell research, demonstrating the potential to advance cures for the major diseases of our time. It is designed for all professionals with an interest in stem cell research, including physicians, researchers, clinical investigators, professors, government and health officials, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students. The panels on the first day are designed to reach a broader audience, including the lay public. The deadline for early (discounted) registration is 13 September. View the events page of the NYSCF's website at the link below for further details on the programme.

[NYSCF Annual Conference](#)

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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.

Prospective delegates to this conference are invited to note in particular that a first meeting of the fledgling Veterinary Stem Cell Consortium is being co-located with the Leipzig conference. The consortium considers that domestic mammals provide an ideal "proving ground" for the translation of stem cell technology into clinical practice, as exemplified by its work in using MSCs for the treatment of tendon disease in horses. For further information, please contact Roger Smith at [RkSmith@RVC.AC.UK](mailto:RkSmith@RVC.AC.UK).

[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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Annual bioProcess UK Conference, York, UK, 25-26 November 2009

The bioProcessUK 2009 annual conference was announced at the beginning of June, and will take place at York Racecourse on 25-26 November 2009. The conference programme includes a focus session on the **challenges of producing advanced therapies**. Interested delegates may register at the link below.

[Conference Homepage and Registration](#)

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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 mcgorriana@cardiff.ac.uk, or view the website below.

[Further Information](#)

Biochemical Society Focused Meeting on Revolutionising Drug Discovery With Stem Cell Technology, Stevenage, UK, 18-19 January 2010

This Focused Meeting aims to bring together academics and colleagues from industry to address the state of the art in the biology of pluripotent stem cells and in particular the progress which has been made toward generating differentiated cell types from human embryonic stem cells that are of greatest potential significance in the process of drug discovery (neuronal cells, cardiomyocytes, hepatocytes). The meeting will be of great interest to scientists in both academic and industrial sectors, providing an opportunity to discuss important aspects relating to the application of stem cells.

Confirmed speakers include Austin Smith, Sheng Ding, David Hay, Peter Andrews, Lorraine Young, Ian Wilmut, Stephen Minger, Lars Sundstrom, Chris Denning and Graeme Milligan. For further information, please view the website below. Speaker slots are available within the programme and the deadline for the submission of abstracts is 11 November.

[Programme Information and Registration](#)

COURSES

Masters (MSc) Course in Nanotechnology and Regenerative Medicine, University College London

The MSc in Nanotechnology and Regenerative Medicine is a brand new course run by the UCL Centre for Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine which starts in September this year. The course is believed to be the first one focusing on nanotechnology applied to regenerative medicine, and places are available for one year's full-time or two years' part-time study. The closing date for this year's entry passed on 1 August 2009. For further information, view the link below or contact Prof Alexander Seifalian at a.seifalian@ucl.ac.uk.

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/stemcells/Students/MSc-Nano-Reg-Med.doc>

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

The Masters by Research in TERM is a new and pioneering one-year collaborative degree course combining expertise from a number of multi-disciplinary research groups across the University of Manchester. It aims to provide skills training and expertise in the practical techniques fundamental to tissue injury and repair including:

1. Core technologies relevant to tissue repair, engineering and regeneration
2. The use of 'smart' biomaterials and biopolymers to repair and regenerate tissues
3. Approaches to cell sourcing and cell differentiation
4. Developing clinical trials and the challenges of commercialisation

The MRes TERM provides training beyond the traditional boundaries of biology, medicine and engineering. It is unique as it is directed at students seeking to forge a career in tissue engineering and stem cell technology in either an academic or commercial setting. This allows students to specialise and focus on independent research projects tailored towards their career aspirations. Housed within the recently built UK Centre for Tissue Regeneration (UKCTR) the MRes combines two independent research placements to allow students the opportunity to experience a range of techniques. This follows a series of master classes covering aspects of cell sourcing, bioengineering and the barriers to commercialisation. With industrial input from the likes of Smith & Nephew, the MRes provides an ideal platform for career progression into PhD training, commercial settings or medical specialisation.

The course is now fully subscribed for 2009/10 entry. If you are interested in applying for 2010/11 entry, please visit the University of Manchester website at the link below:

<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/stem/msc/index.php> 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 - completed the first intake into the new Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine Master of Research programme in October 2007. Students register on the Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine specialisation within Newcastle University's MRes in Medical and Molecular Biosciences, a one year full-time modular research degree. The programme includes advanced study of stem cell biology, research skills and a 24-week research project. The programme provides a springboard into a career that involves a working knowledge of scientific research in academia and industry and provides excellent preparation for PhD research studies. Teaching is provided by internationally-recognised researchers at both universities drawn from across the wide breadth of biological, biomedical and medical sciences. Research projects are available in both Durham and Newcastle.

For further information about the course, 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/>.

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

This taught Masters Course provides multidisciplinary postgraduate training in biomedical engineering and cellular engineering, building on undergraduate knowledge in basic science and applying it to clinical applications of bioengineering and cell/tissue engineering relevant to the healthcare environment. Modules covered by this course include 'stem cell therapy', 'cell biomechanics', 'cell and tissue engineering', and 'physiological measurement and medical imaging'. There are two student intakes per year – one in October and one in January. Students can study full or part time. Prestigious scholarships are available for this course. Students perform two semesters of lectures followed by direct research project experience in the laboratory-based third semester. These research projects offer students hands on training in state of the art areas such as adult and embryonic stem cell culture, optical coherence tomography and bioreactor design. A seminar series is also offered throughout the first two semesters where students have the opportunity to be taught by and interact with international leaders in the field of bioengineering.

These courses are run within the Institute of Science and Technology in Medicine at Keele University. ISTM has been rated in the national 2008 Research Assessment Exercise that 90% of the research staff here are rated internationally and 10% of the staff are world leading in their field. This builds on our excellent 5* rating given to the Institute at the last RAE in 2001. In summary, the MSc Biomedical Engineering, Cell & Tissue Engineering course provides a year's training in two biotechnology fields. Further information is available at the following URL:

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

INFORMATION

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 24 lines banked, of which 3 are awaiting release in the very 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 recently led the organisation of a UK-Spain stem cells workshop, held at the Royal Society in London on 24/25 March 2009. A report of this meeting is now available on the UKNSCN website, which includes initiatives to promote collaboration between UK and Spanish stem cell researchers. Last month, the UKNSCN launched a new secure, password-protected on-line discussion forum for the exchange of expertise information between the two countries' stem cell research communities.

[UK-Spain Workshop Report](#)

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

Glyn Stacey, UK Stem Cell Bank

REMEDiE EU Framework Programme 7 Consortium: Stakeholder Survey on Regenerative Medicine

The Regenerative Medicine in Europe (REMEDiE) FP7 consortium, centred on the University of York, invites you to participate in its on-line stakeholder survey designed to gauge the full extent of the regenerative medicine industry in Europe. The on-line survey, aimed at business, is accessible at the link below.

[REMEDiE Stakeholder Survey](#)

Medical Research Council (MRC) Experimental Medicine Toolkit

Launched recently by the MRC Regulatory Support Centre, the Experimental Medicine Toolkit has been designed to support investigators, research managers and ethics committees in (a) assessing the risks involved in experimental medicine studies, and (b) devising risk-proportionate management and monitoring strategies. This is undoubtedly of use to stem cell researchers and clinicians. Further information is available at the link below.

[Toolkit Homepage](#)

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

The ESRC Stem Cell Initiative has been issuing quarterly electronic bulletins to report on the latest social science research in stem cells and regenerative medicine. The sixth and final issue is now available at the following link and reports on the *Beyond Pattison* conference which took place in London on 7/8 May 2009. There are updates on research activities and events which are of particular interest to stem cell social scientists.

[Sixth Electronic Bulletin](#)

If you wish to receive future ESRC bulletins automatically, you should send a request by E-mail to Andrew Webster at ajw25@york.ac.uk.

EuroSciCon Meetings and Conferences of Relevance to the Stem Cell Community

Founded in 2001, the life sciences communications organisation EuroSciCon has a number of very specific meetings organised over the next two years which are relevant to the stem cell research community. These are commercial workshops attracting CPD accreditation in most cases. However, you may be entitled to a discount as a UKNSCN member in some cases. If you are interested, please view the website below.

[Conference Listings](#)

END