

From: Executive Director (UKNSCN)
Sent: 03 September 2009 16:59
To: Executive Director (UKNSCN)
Subject: UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN): News & Events Bulletin 20

Attachments: CGDCall6July2009.pdf; 16th Quarterly update.doc.pdf; BHF Centre Symposium - 6 Oct09.pdf
Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the twentieth 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 21 will be circulated on 5 October. Thank you.

Ben Sykes
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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 will be Fiona Watt from Cancer Research UK in Cambridge. On-line registration will open later this month, and the programme is under development through a small Programme Steering Group comprising six members of the stem cell research community. Formal invitations to speakers will be issued this month.

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 and have 30 March - 1 April 2011 provisionally booked.

[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](#)

EPSRC CALL-FOR-PROPOSALS ON NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES FOR STEM CELL SCIENCE [UK ONLY]

The UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has recently announced a new call-for-proposals on *Novel Technologies in Stem Cell Science*. Funding of up to £5.5M is available under this call, subject as usual to the quality of submissions, and EPSRC expects to support 2 or 3 projects of 3-4 years' duration. Applications are sought from UK groups collaborating across disciplines to develop novel technologies for the characterisation, manipulation and monitoring of stem cells. Projects funded under this call will concentrate on basic technology research, and outputs will typically sit at Technology Readiness Level 1-2 (contact EPSRC for definitions). The deadline for applications is 3rd November 2009 at 4pm.

To assist prospective applicants, the EPSRC is holding a one-day information and networking seminar on Tuesday 8th September at the Institute of Physics in

London. If interested, you must register for this in advance by sending e-mail correspondence to stem.cells@epsrc.ac.uk.

[Further Information and Applications Process](#)

TSB FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: NEW PROGRAMME ON REGENERATIVE MEDICINE [UK ONLY]

As part of a new £18M programme in Regenerative Medicine geared towards helping consolidate a regenerative medicine industry here in the UK, the UK's Technology Strategy Board (TSB) has just launched two single-stage calls-for-proposals for business-focused projects in the following two areas:

1. Therapeutics Feasibility Studies

TSB will invest up to £3M in commercial research and development feasibility projects in the area of regenerative medicine therapies. Individual project costs must not exceed £100k and projects will be of 6 months' duration with an expected start in December 2009. Up to 100% funding for businesses may be available under *de minimis* state aid rules. For further details on this call, view the link below. It is compulsory that you register with TSB your intent to submit by midday on 28th September. The deadline for the receipt of full applications is midday on 1st October.

[Further Details on Therapeutics Call](#)

2. Value Systems and Business Models

TSB will invest up to £1.5M in commercial research and development projects in the area of regenerative medicine value systems and business models. Proposals under this call will ideally be business-led and business-driven, but can involve science-to-business interactions. Projects will attract up to 75% funding of total eligible project costs. For further details on this call, view the link below. It is compulsory that you register with TSB your intent to submit by midday on 8th October. The deadline for the receipt of full applications is midday on 15th October.

[Further Details on Value Systems/Business Models Call](#)

Note that the TSB will be operating a competition helpline for applicants (01355 272155) and will be holding an optional briefing meeting for prospective applicants on 8th September in central London. For further information, you can send an e-mail request to competitions@tsb.gov.uk.

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.

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](#)

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 four closing dates for outline proposals to the new Translational Stem Cell Research Committee (TSCRC) have now passed and the next closing date is 9 December 2009. 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 2010 Closing Dates](#)

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 18th 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](#)

ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES PUBLICATION ON **HYPE, HOPE AND HYBRIDS**

Readers may be interested in a recent publication from the UK's Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS), which has been prepared in conjunction with the Wellcome Trust, the Science Media Centre and the Medical Research Council. The publication contains personal perspectives from science, policy and media representatives on the public debate surrounding the passage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill during 2006-2008, and is available to download from the AMS website at the following link:

[Download Publication](#)

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

Attached to this bulletin, you will find the 16th quarterly update from UKNSCN's contact at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in California. This contains very useful information on recent federal developments in stem cell policy (NIH guidelines), CIRM funding issues, other state developments and US company news.

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](#)

UKNSCN COORDINATION GRANTS SCHEME IN PREPARATION

Following approval from the UKNSCN's Management Board at its most recent meeting on 20 July, the Network is in the process of preparing an informal scheme (i.e. no peer review, closing dates etc) in which small amounts of funding such as £500 or £1k can be made available to UK academics to contribute to the costs of coordinating national-level scientific meetings in stem cell science and translation. The budget for this scheme will be fixed by the Board each year and final details (criteria etc.) will be announced in next month's e-bulletin.

EVENTS

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. UKNSCN staff will be attending the Congress. 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. *This workshop is now fully-subscribed.*

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

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5th Annual Vision Research Meeting, Bristol, UK, 18 September 2009

The theme for this year's one-day meeting is *Frontiers in Ocular Regeneration* and the programme will showcase cutting-edge developments in the field of ophthalmology and stem cell research. The meeting will take place at University Hospitals Bristol Education Centre and registration is open to all (fees apply). The programme is cross-disciplinary and covers national as well as regional research going on in the southwest. For further details, view the link below.

[Registration and Further Information](#)

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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. This item is for information only, since the official closing date for applications passed several months ago.

[Programme Details](#)

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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](mailto:jenna@sscn.co.uk). The deadline for the submission of abstracts passed on 14th August and the speaker programme is now complete. Interested delegates can still register for the workshop at the link below.

[SSCN Events Website](#)

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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 still 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](#)

London Regenerative Medicine Network (LRMN) Evening Meeting, London, UK, Date to be Confirmed

The LRMN will be resuming its highly successful and very well-attended evening meetings in October. Keep an eye out on the LRMN website for further details.

[LRMN Website](#)

HFEA Annual Conference, London, UK, 1 October 2009

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) will be holding its annual conference in London at the Grange St Paul's Hotel (overlooking St Paul's Cathedral) on 1 October from 10am to 5.15pm. Whilst the programme will be of greatest interest to clinicians working in the fertility sector, there are a couple of break-out workshops which may be of interest to the stem cell research community on *Consent to Research* and *Future Research Developments Impacting Upon Fertility Treatment*. View the link below for further information. Places are limited, so the HFEA advises early registration if you are interested in attending.

[Further Information 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](#)

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BHF Symposium on Cardiac Myogenesis and Regeneration, London, UK, 6 October 2009

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) Centre of Research Excellence at Imperial College London is holding a one-day symposium on *Cardiac Myogenesis and Regeneration* which will take place at the Royal Geographic Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London on 6 October. Further details are available in the attached flyer and registration is free. To attend this symposium, you must register in advance by contacting Katie Payne at [k.payne@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:k.payne@imperial.ac.uk), telephone 020-7594-8062.

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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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4th Annual UK Cancer Stem Cells Symposium, London, UK, 12 November 2009

The fourth annual UK Cancer Stem Cells Symposium will take place in London at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry on 12 November 2009. The programme includes guest speakers from overseas who will discuss on-going developments in stem cell biology related to cancer. The meeting will provide comprehensive updates on a range of cancer stem cell topics, report recent research, and provide opportunities to network with colleagues who have active research interests in stem cells and cancer. Registration is open to all via the link below (fees apply) and the closing date for registration is 30th October.

[Speaker Information and Registration](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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 mccorriana@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](#)

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Nanomedicine 2010 Conference, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 24-25 February 2010

In the latest of its highly-successful series of conferences addressing the new field of nanomedicine and related medical technologies, the Institute of Nanotechnology, in partnership with NanoNed (the Dutch national nanotechnology network), will be bringing together some of the world's leading researchers and companies in the fields of medical diagnostics, drug design and delivery, imaging and regenerative medicine to show how the application of nanoscience and nanotechnologies can contribute towards answering this multifaceted challenge. The conference includes an entire session dedicated to regenerative medicine, in which the UK speakers will be Molly Stevens from Imperial College and Mike Raxworthy from Neotherix Ltd.

[IoN Conference Homepage and Registration Information](#)

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## 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](mailto:a.seifalian@ucl.ac.uk).

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

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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>

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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 - 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](mailto: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](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 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			

Get to Know the UK Stem Cell Bank!

During 2009/2010, the Bank is holding a series of roadshows across the UK. The most recent event in August was kindly hosted by the University of Bath. The next date in our roadshow diary is 2nd October when the Bank will be visiting the University of Southampton. This is a great opportunity for scientists and clinicians involved or interested in stem cell work to meet representatives from the Bank, both to hear about the Bank's activities and to offer feedback on what they feel the Bank as a scientific resource could do for them.

We welcome enquiries from scientists interested in attending the roadshows and meeting with us in their region. 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