

Stem Cell Awareness Day

Thursday 25 September, 2008

Hosted by Monash Immunology and
Stem Cell Laboratories (MISCL)

Monash University
Robert Blackwood Hall,
Monash University, Clayton

Program



MONASH University
Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

Stem cells: The new revolution in medicine.

What are they, what's all the fuss, and how can they help me?

Stem cells have generated unprecedented excitement in medical research because of their potential to treat a wide range of the most devastating degenerative and induced diseases including those of the cardiac, nervous (including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease), vascular and respiratory systems, autoimmune diseases (such as multiple sclerosis, type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and lupus), immunodeficiency states, and cancer. Stem Cell therapies may also be useful to treat a wide range of sporting or other physical injuries, and may assist in the recovery from surgery. Stem cells have both human and veterinary applications. They are also the inspiration for a whole new generation of research scientists, astonishing technical breakthroughs and thriving commercial opportunities.

However, the enthusiasm for Stem Cell Research has been tempered by unrealistic promises and expectations, and significant confusion and controversy in the community, often due to inadequate public education, ethical concerns associated with the use of embryonic stem cells, and the perceived threat of human cloning. These concerns are contrasted with sensationalist stories of "miracle cures," often in poorly regulated environments but still driving a thriving medical tourism industry, because of the desperate needs of many patients for a better quality of life.

Accordingly we have instigated Stem Cell Awareness Day, to foster a greater understanding of stem cells in the broad community – including patients and their support groups, clinicians, ethicists, researchers, students and commercial interests.

This world first, major event will centre around a Public Forum, at Monash University, on all aspects of stem cells, presented by national and international experts in the field. It will help address questions and concerns including:

- What are stem cells?
- How real is their clinical usage? Are they being used already? If not, when?
- Can they really help – what is hype and what is fact?
- What are the safety, regulatory and ethical issues?
- Should I be banking placenta and cord stem cells for my baby?
- What are the career opportunities in stem cell research and therapies?
- What are the commercial opportunities?

Above all, Stem Cell Awareness Day will showcase the latest breakthroughs in stem cell research and how these are beginning to be applied in the clinic. It will also highlight the global leadership position of Melbourne's biotechnology and stem cell research institutes.

To facilitate participation, this event is free of charge but as places are limited, please register your attendance on our website (www.stemcellawarenessday.com) or by phone on 03 9905 1344.

For all other enquiries, please contact
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Sincerely,



Professor Richard Boyd

Director, Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories (MISCL)

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Thursday 25 September, 2008

Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University Clayton

Morning public forum: Stem Cells – The Overview		Afternoon public forum: Clinical Applications of Stem Cells	
10 am	Welcome and introduction Professor Richard Larkins AO <i>Vice-Chancellor and President, Monash University</i>	2 pm	Welcome Professor Edwina Cornish, <i>Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Monash University</i>
10.05 am	Official opening Gavin Jennings MLC <i>Minister for Innovation</i>	2.05 pm	Official opening of afternoon public forum Tony Lupton MP, <i>Cabinet Secretary</i>
10.15 am	Victoria-California “Air Bridge” for Stem Cell Research Video Link with the Californian Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) Mr Robert Klein, <i>Founder, and Chairman, CIRM</i> Professor Alan Trounson, <i>President, CIRM</i> Panel Discussion: Q&A session with CIRM and audience Video from patient organization Americans for Cures Foundation Ms Amy Daly & Ms Constance McKee, <i>Co-Executive Directors, Americans for Cures</i>	2.10 pm	New treatments in spinal disk repair Dr Tony Goldschlager, <i>Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories (MISCL)</i>
10.35 am	Stem Cells – The Current Scene • What are stem cells? Professor Andrew Elefanty, <i>Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories (MISCL)</i> • Why are people so excited about embryonic stem cells? Professor Ed Stanley, <i>Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories (MISCL)</i> • What are the regulations for stem cells and their uses? Dr Megan Munsie, <i>The Australian Stem Cell Centre</i> • How are stem cells being used in the clinic? Professor Jeff Szer, <i>Royal Melbourne Hospital</i>	2.20 pm	Stem Cells and Spinal Cord Injury Terry Fawcett, <i>CEO, StepAhead Australia</i>
10.40 am		2.30 pm	Heart Disease – Advances with Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering Dr Wayne Morrison, <i>Bernard O'Brien Institute of Microsurgery</i>
10.50 am		2.40 pm	Diabetes Dr Bernie Tuch, <i>University of New South Wales</i>
11 am		2.50 pm	Questions from the audience
11.10 am	Questions from the audience	3.10 pm	The Australia-China Centre for Excellence in Stem Cells A/Prof Taiping Wang, <i>Deputy Director, Peking University Stem Cell Research Centre</i>
11.30 am	COFFEE BREAK	3.15 pm	Clinical uses of amnion stem cells Professor Euan Wallace, <i>Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Faculty of Medicine, Monash University</i>
12 noon	Panel Discussion: Stem Cells: Premature treatments or tantalising cures? The need for new treatment strategies vs safety vs ethics Session Chairs: Dr Graham Phillips (Catalyst, ABC) and Professor Richard Boyd Panellists: Professor Peter Rathjen, <i>Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), University of Melbourne</i> Mr Gary Allsop, <i>Honorary Director, Spinal Cure Australia</i> Dr Megan Munsie, <i>Director Government Affairs and Policy, The Australian Stem Cell Centre</i> Ms Diana Asmar, <i>Councillor for Barunah Ward, Darebin City Council</i> Professor Bob Williamson, <i>Honorary Senior Principal Fellow of the Murdoch Institute and the University of Melbourne</i> Professor Jeff Szer, <i>Director of Clinical Haematology and the BMT unit, Royal Melbourne Hospital</i> Dr Kirsten Herbert, <i>Department of Haematology and Medical Oncology, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre</i> Professor Graham Jenkin, <i>Deputy Director, Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories (MISCL)</i> Dr Dominic Wall, <i>Chief Scientific Officer, Cell Therapies Pty Ltd</i> Mr Nick Birrell, <i>Director, Monash Asia Pacific Centre for Science & Wealth Creation</i>	3.25 pm	Cystic Fibrosis Professor Bob Williamson, <i>Honorary Senior Principal Fellow of the Murdoch Institute and the University of Melbourne</i>
	LUNCH BREAK Student fundraising BBQ Scientific poster session and information booths in foyer Free concert: Jackson Jackson	3.35 pm	Kidney Diseases Professor John Bertram, <i>Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, Monash University</i>
		3.45 pm	Expansion of Cord Blood Stem Cells Associate Professor Mark Kirkland, <i>Chief Scientific Officer, Cytomatrix Pty Ltd</i>
		3.55 pm	Questions from the audience
		4.10 pm	COFFEE BREAK
		4.30 pm	Breast Cancer Professor Geoff Lindeman, <i>Walter and Eliza Hall Institute</i>
		4.40 pm	Cancer Stem Cells Professor Neil Watkins, <i>Monash Institute for Medical Research</i>
		4.50 pm	Repair of Immunity – cancer, chemotherapy, immunodeficiency Professor Richard Boyd, <i>Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories (MISCL)</i>
		5 pm	Multiple Sclerosis Professor Claude Bernard, <i>Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories (MISCL)</i>
		5.10 pm	Veterinary applications: Horses, Companion Animals Mr David Bridgland, <i>General manager, Vet Biotechnology Ltd</i>
		5.20 pm	Stem cell banking – private and public opportunities Dr Tony Coulepis, <i>CEO CellSense</i> Dr Ngaire Elwood, <i>Director, BMDI Cord Blood Bank</i>
		5.30 pm	Questions from the audience and closing remarks Professor Richard Boyd, <i>Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories (MISCL)</i>
		Refreshments in foyer – Further questions, meetings and greetings between audience and speakers	

