

# NEWSLETTER: Issue 1

## 15<sup>th</sup> Dec., 2003

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### How We Have Grown

The convenors of the NSW Stem Cell Network would like to thank you for your support in 2003. Over the past year, the Network has grown from 120 to 320 members including representatives from a wide range of professional groups employed at over 100 institutions spanning the state.

The **vision** was to create a **stem cell community** with an interest in both adult and embryonic stem cells and encompassing science, medicine, ethics law and administration of stem cells. Regular workshops and seminars organised by the Network have allowed this new community to blossom, sharing knowledge and skills and embarking on collaborative research and commercial projects.

### Looking toward 2004

In 2004 we plan to hold two workshops, in March and July. Continuing our close relationship with the National Stem Cell Centre (NSCC), this year the Network will be the local organizing committee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> NSCC Scientific Meeting. The conference will held in association with The Australian Health and Medical Research Congress in late November, 2004. For more information go to <http://www.asnevents.net.au/congress/>

Besides the event management role, the Network is involved in co-ordinating a range of other stem cell network initiatives including high school and post graduate stem cell education as well as raising general public awareness of stem cell research.

We wish everyone seasons greetings and continued success with your endeavours for 2004!

### 4<sup>th</sup> Stem Cell Workshop

**Dates & times:** Tuesday, 16 March, 12:00p.m – 6:00p.m.

**Location:** Lecture Theatre & Functions Room, Edmund Blakett Building

Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick

**Program:** The program for the 4<sup>th</sup> Stem Cell Workshop is under development.

The half day workshop will include two sessions;

### **Session 1: The Latest Research**

Including presentations of a neurological flavour from respected local and interstate guests including;

- Professor Malcolm Horne, Dept. of Medicine, Monash Medical Centre  
“Repairing the Parkinsonian brain”
- Associate Professor Alan Mackay-Sim, Griffith University in Brisbane.
- Dr. Rod Rietze, Institute for Brain Research, University of QLD  
"Harnessing the endogenous regenerative capacity of the adult brain"
- Professor Bruce Brew, St. Vincent’s Hospital, Darlinghurst

### **Session 2: What’s Happening in Australia?**

Continuing our efforts to update you not only on the science but on local legislative, ethical and other relevant issues we will hear from;

- Dr. Paul Brock, NSW Dept. of Education and Training  
“Advocacy; past, present and future. A personal perspective.
- Ms. Kerry Doyle, Head, NSW Bio unit, The Cabinet Office  
“The NSW Government Perspective.”

Please be sure to enter the date into your diary, a full program & registration form will be distributed early next year.

## **New Website**

The current NSW Stem Cell Network’s website is linked to that of the Diabetes Transplant Unit. Although this website has been useful to inform members about upcoming workshops there is a need to create a more professional website for the Network. Due to be launched early in 2004, this new website will have numerous functions including;

- Informing members about local and international Stem Cell News and upcoming events.
- The option to update your details and register online for workshops.
- Linkages that are relevant to professionals working with stem cells e.g. NSCC, NH&MRC.
- Linkages to educational websites – for students.
- Definitions of concepts relating to stem cells for general public awareness.

# **Spinal Cord Injury & Other Neurological Conditions Research Grants**

The New South Wales Government's *Spinal Cord Injury & Other Neurological Conditions Research Grants Program*, launched by the New South Wales Premier, The Hon Bob Carr MP, in January 2003, is intended to promote research into spinal cord injury and other neurological conditions.

Under the Program, applications for funding are sought for the following:

## **Research Program Grants**

Applications for Research Program Grants are sought from researchers and/or research teams both within Australia and overseas to establish a research program in New South Wales, Australia. From a total of \$7 million for Program Grant funding, up to four Program Grants will be awarded. Program Grants will be available to support research programs, led by established senior researchers, which have the potential to impact upon spinal cord injury and other neurological conditions. An individual Program Grant will not exceed \$2.5 million over four years and must be substantially expended within NSW.

## **Research Project Grants**

Applications for research project grants are sought from post-doctoral researchers in New South Wales within eight years receipt of a PhD. In the inaugural funding round, up to two Project Grants of up to \$200,000 will be awarded.

## **Travel Scholarships**

Applications are sought from PhD students in New South Wales for travel scholarships to present research at international conferences/ institutions and to visit overseas laboratories or centres of excellence. Up to three scholarships of up to \$10,000 are available in this funding round.

**Closing Date for applications: 23 February 2004**

Further information, including the application kit and guidelines, may be obtained from the following NSW Government department websites:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/rad/spinal/>

<http://www.spinalforum.com>