

A microscopic image showing a dense field of stem cells, likely from a mouse embryo, stained with blue and red dyes. The cells are arranged in a regular, grid-like pattern, with each cell showing a distinct nucleus and cytoplasm.

The Australian Stem Cell Summit

Thursday 29th and Friday 30th March 2007 Hilton on the Park, Melbourne

Workshops: Wednesday 28th March 2007

Image courtesy of the Australian Stem Cell Centre

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To Register

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Wednesday 28th March 2007

Time	Workshop Title	Workshop leader	Organisation
8.30am	<i>Registration and morning coffee</i>		
9.00am	Start of Workshop A: Interpreting legislation: implications and interpretations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ What new types of research will Australian scientists be able to do with somatic cell nuclear transfer? ■ What formal procedures will be required when doing that research? ■ What new types of fertility research will be possible? ■ How will the new legislation affect couples in fertility treatment programs? ■ What safeguards exist to meet community concerns about human embryo research? 	Professor Loane Skene	University of Melbourne
10.30am	<i>Morning tea</i>		
11.00am	Workshop A return		
12.30pm	End of Workshop A		
1.30pm	Start of Workshop B: Best practice Intellectual Property management for stem cell research and development <p>IP for stem cells in practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Different ways to build IP in biotech ■ How to make your IP valuable ■ When to use confidential information in your IP portfolio (including secret use) ■ Protecting improved versions of a product ■ Reach-through claims ■ Data requirements <p>Inventorship and Ownership – a source of problems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Typical ownership issues ■ Challenges of joint ownership and joint or collaborative development <p>International Developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ United States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – key IP considerations – recent issues ■ Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – key IP considerations – recent issues <p>Hypothetical This workshop will also include a hypothetical where participants will work through an exercise on IP enforcement.</p>	Paul Jones	Freehills
		Paul is a partner with Freehills Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys. Paul has particular expertise in the area of patents in the fields of biotechnology, inorganic chemistry and organic and physical chemistry. Paul also has extensive experience of over 20 years in pharmaceutical disputes.	
		James Cherry	Freehills
		James is a partner of both Freehills and its associated patent attorney firm, Freehills Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys. Within Freehills' intellectual property group, James' practice focuses on creating and managing clients' patent portfolios in the technical areas of medical treatments, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and biochemistry. He is also actively involved in assisting clients to resolve their contentious patent matters.	
3.00pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
3.30pm	Workshop B return		
5.00pm	End of Workshop B		

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

This vital national summit will bring together leaders in stem cell research from around Australia. Conference sponsorship provides a unique opportunity for you to meet and do business with your target market. To discuss the event and the role you can play, please contact Harvey Chang on 02 9080 4321, or email Harvey.chang@informa.com.au

The Australian Stem Cell Summit

Thursday 29th March 2007

Time	Topic	Speaker	Organisation
8.30am	Registration and morning coffee		
8.50am	Opening address by the Chair		
9.00am	Potential directions for the Australian Stem Cell Centre	Dr Stephen Livesey Chief Scientific Officer	Australian Stem Cell Centre
9.40am	State Government initiatives	The Honourable Theo Theophanous MP,	Minister for Industry and State Development, Minister for Major Projects, Minister for Small Business and Member for Jika Jika
10.20am	Legislation update ■ Implications for the Australian research industry	Professor Loane Skene	University of Melbourne
11.00am	Morning tea		
11.20am	The interface between ethics, politics and public perceptions of stem cell science	Professor Bob Williamson Chairman	Australian Academy of Science
11.50am	Stem cell technology: A university perspective ■ Are we facing a skills shortage that could compromise our ability to be internationally competitive? ■ Are we training the workforce required for stem cell research and development? ■ Are we providing society with the information and guidance it needs to make informed decisions?	Professor Peter Rathjen Dean of Sciences	University of Melbourne
12.20pm	Funding research – the California experience Live via satellite	Robert Klein Chairman	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, USA
1.00pm	Lunch		
2.00pm	Attracting venture capital: Investors perspective ■ What do VCs look for and the challenges that investors face in Australia ■ Challenges unique to investment in stem cell companies ■ Deals done in the stem cell field ■ Cell therapies: déjà vu all over again?	Dr Andrew Baker Associate Director Dr Mark Harvey Investment Manager	GBS Venture Partners Ltd CM Capital Investments
2.40pm	Training the front line: ■ Communicating with the medical profession ■ Informing doctors about stem cell applications	Clinical Professor Fiona Wood Chairperson, & Co-founder and Director	McComb Foundation Clinical Cell Culture
3.00pm	PANEL DISCUSSION Public communication and other PR roles for scientists promoting stem cell research ■ What is the balance between attracting attention without over-promising? ■ Are there better approaches to de-mystifying what we are trying to do? ■ What was the most effective way of getting the message through in the "Cloning debate"?	Clinical Professor Fiona Wood Chairperson, & Co-founder and Director Professor Zee Upton Chief Scientist Dr Elizabeth Finkel Former biochemist	McComb Foundation Clinical Cell Culture Tissue Therapies Author of "Stem Cells: Controversy on the frontiers of science", Contributing editor Cosmos magazine
3.40pm	Afternoon tea		
4.00pm	PANEL DISCUSSION Pro-active addressing of public concerns and perceptions in relation to the ethical use of human embryonic stem cells ■ Bringing debate back to science over hype ■ How should the Government respond to confronting science when the public is divided? ■ Should religious belief be declared as a conflict of interest in the same way as financial interests?	Professor Warwick Anderson CEO Professor Loane Skene	National Health and Medical Research Council University of Melbourne
4.40pm	Closing remarks from the Chair		
4.50pm	Networking drinks		

For conference updates visit www.informa.com.au/stemcell07

Friday 30th March 2007

Time	Topic	Speaker	Organisation
8.30am	Registration		
8.50am	Opening remarks from the Chair		
9.00am	Regulatory issues	Professor Albert Farrugia, Office of Devices, Blood and Tissues	Therapeutic Goods Administration
9.30am	Licensing and compliance	Professor Warwick Anderson CEO	National Health and Medical Research Council
10.00am	Preclinical and clinical studies of mesenchymal stem cells	Professor Kerry Atkinson Head, Biotherapy program	Mater Medical Research Institute and Mater Adult Hospital, Brisbane
10.20am	Morning tea		
10.40am	Freedom to operate with stem cells	Dr David Campbell Group Business Development Manager	Stem Cell Sciences Limited
11.20am	IP protection for stem cells ■ What is protectable and where? ■ Is it worth protecting?	Dr Bill Pickering, Partner	Blake Dawson Waldron
11.50am	Opportunities: the anaesthetic for a long journey ■ Importance of public engagement in the process of policy formulation ■ The management of expectations and perceptions, for all stakeholders ■ Inconsistent industry reaction to the process of debate and the articulated goals ■ Opportunities for Australian researchers and companies	Dr Anna Lavelle CEO	Australian Biotechnology Ltd
12.20pm	Unlocking the secrets of stem cells using plants as model systems ■ How stem cells are maintained: a lesson from plants ■ Plant stem cells – nature of “stemness” ■ Shared features of animal and plant stem cells	Professor Prem Bhalla Head of Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Laboratory	University of Melbourne
12.35	Understanding stem cell power to renew using plants as model systems ■ Understanding regenerative potential of plant stem cells ■ Gene networks controlling plant stem cells ■ Dedifferentiation and redifferentiation: learning from plant cells	Professor Mohan B Singh	The University of Melbourne
12.50pm	Lunch		
1.50pm	Integrating human research to companion animal therapies and livestock production ■ Transforming commercial animal production through stem cell technologies ■ Male germ line cell transplant ■ Large scale spermatogonial stem cell culture ■ Stem cell differentiation	Dr Jonathan Hill Project Leader, Breed Engineering	CSIRO Livestock Industries CSIRO Food Futures National Research Flagship
2.20pm	International experiences	Professor Silviu Itescu Chief Scientific Adviser	Mesoblast Limited
3.10pm	Afternoon tea		
3.40pm	Olfactory ensheathing cells in spinal cord injury: Case study of a phase I clinical trial in cell transplantation	Professor Alan Mackay-Sim Director	National Adult Stem Cell Centre Griffith University
4.10pm	PANEL DISCUSSION No cowboys: At what stage to release working (yet not understood) stem cell procedures into the market? ■ How much risk is the public willing to wear in this litigious age?	Professor Silviu Itescu Chief Scientific Adviser Professor Kerry Atkinson Head, Biotherapy Program Professor Alan Trounson Director	Mesoblast Limited Mater Medical Research Institute Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development
4.50pm	Closing remarks from the Chair and close of Conference		

The Australian Stem Cell Summit

One more good reason to get behind Australia's researchers

Prepared to die but planning to live.

I was diagnosed with leukaemia in 1988 – I was 38 years old.

Michele and I had been married 7 years. We had two young daughters and all I could think of was the hardships they would have to endure if I wasn't around to support them, look after them, and provide for them.

When the doctor discussed my initial diagnoses he indicated that the 'good' news was the cancer was slow growing so I had some time up my sleeve. Of course the bad news was that all treatment was palliative, focusing on quality of life rather than any possible cure.

At the time experimental treatment was being undertaken with bone marrow transplants and my doctor was keen for me to consider it. A young patient was unusual with this disease and experience suggested that the possibility of survival would be improved if I had a transplant early in the disease process.

The statistics sounded OK – 20% with a 5+ years survival (considered cured), 25% death rate, and the disease progressing in the remaining 45% of patients. However, only 26 patients had undergone the procedure worldwide – not a big sample. It was a bit too scary even for me, so even though my sister Kerry was an identical match for a transplant I wasn't confident enough to go ahead.

After 13 years living with leukaemia, in 2000 I became refractory to chemotherapy and was in the end stages of the disease. Things didn't look good and I was desperate. I had my spleen irradiated which gained some time, but the disease was returning rapidly.

I researched the internet constantly and came across some information on an experimental antibody treatment for which I qualified for compassionate use. The 12 week course was scary, harrowing but very successful, my blood counts were down to normal levels and the bulk of my disease had been reduced significantly.

The result gave me the opportunity to try another emerging procedure – a 'Mini Bone Marrow Transplant'. I was patient number five in Australia for the procedure.

It was a shaky start with too little engraftment and the return of active disease, however, after three infusions with my donor's marrow (my wonderful sister Kerry), I got the eagerly anticipated GVHD (Graft Versus Host Disease) in 2002 which was going to kill my leukaemia.

17 months after the initial transplant there were no leukaemia cells in my peripheral blood. I had 100% engraftment and I could see a future ahead.

I still live with side effects of the disease and the bone marrow transplant, but each month I get stronger and stronger.



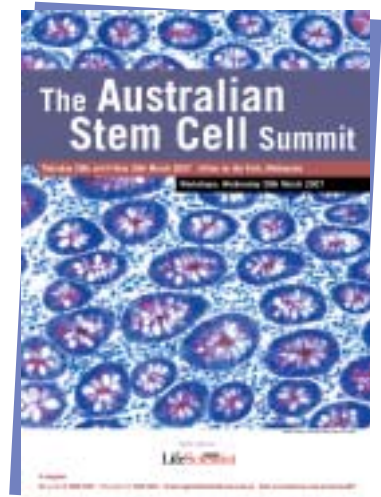
David Nomchong is the current President of the **Arrow Bone Marrow Transplant Foundation**.



The Australian Stem Cell Summit

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