



NSW Stem Cell Network - The Future - Survey Results

Survey Statistics	
Viewed	116
Started	99
Completed	74
Completion Rate	74.75%
Drop Outs (After Starting)	25
Average time taken to complete survey : 9 minute(s)	



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1. Please describe your professional involvement with stem cells

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. scientist	38	50.00%					
2. clinician	5	6.58%					
3. ethicist	3	3.95%					
4. media/communications	3	3.95%					
5. sales and marketing	6	7.89%					
6. lawyer	1	1.32%					
7. government legislator	2	2.63%					
8. administrator	2	2.3%					
9. student	8	10.53%					
10. Other	8	10.53%					
Total	76	100%					

Other

- Social scientist (2)
- Heavy involvement publicly and with governments in advocating legislative approval of stem cell research
- Business development/licensing
- Type 1 insulin dependent diabetic
- Paediatric Diabetes Educator
- Personal interest
- Parent of post graduate biotechnology student, and, listed ASX biotech sector investment analyst

Key Facts

60.53% chose the following options :
 scientist
 student
 Least chosen option **1.32%** :
 lawyer

2. What is the main organisation you are connected with?

ANU and the Ludwig Cancer Institute Melbourne
Australian Foundation for Diabetes Research
Australian Life Scientist
Australian Proteome Analysis Facility
Australian Stem Cell Centre (3)
BD Biosciences
Becton Dickinson
Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine - University of Sydney
Children's Cancer Institute Australia
Children's Medical Research Institute
Cryosite Ltd



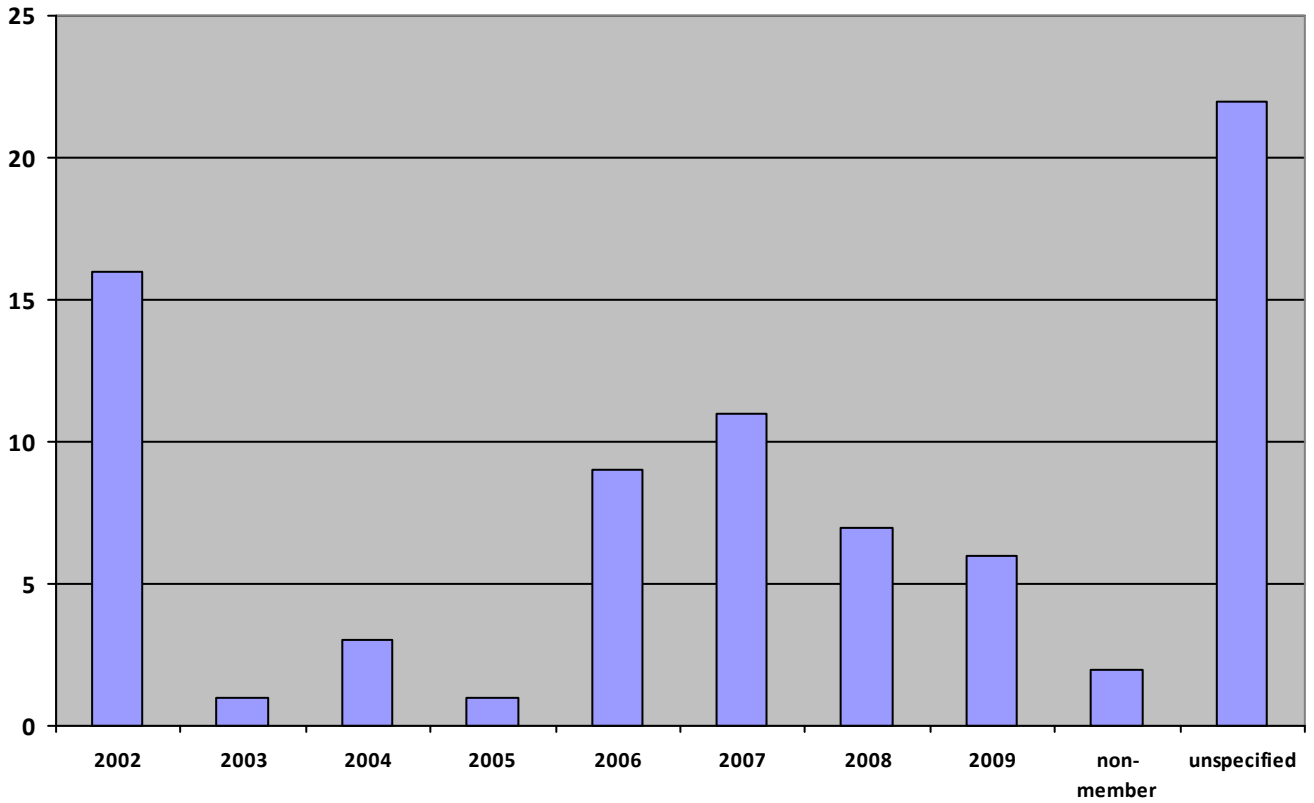
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CSIRO (2)
CSIRO Livestock Industries
Diabetes Australia-NSW
DNZ
eppendorf, South Pacific, Agilent Genomic Technologies
Garvan Institute and BC Cancer Agency
Garvan Institute of Medical Research (2)
Gift of Life Australia/ABMDR
Hospital
Kolling Institute, University of Sydney at Royal North Shore Hospital
Macquarie University
Millipore
None
NSW Department of Education and Training / University of Sydney / MNDAS NSW
NSW Stem Cell Network
O'Brien Institute
Prefer not to say
Prince of Wales Hospital
RHW
SA Pathology
Spinal Unit, Royal North Shore Hospital
SpinalCure Australia
St Vincent's Hospital (2)
STEMCELL Technologies (2)
Sydney IVF (2)
Teaching hospital
Tertiary education
Therapeutic Goods Administration
University (5)
University laboratories
University of New South Wales (8)
University of Newcastle
University of Sydney (7)
University of Technology, Sydney
University of New South Wales and University of Sydney
Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute
Westmead Hospital



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3. If you are a member, how and when did you join the NSW Stem Cell Network?



Summary of how or why members joined the Network

Was a co-founder	1
Joined at the invitation of Professor Bernie Tuch or Nola Camden	6
Joined as a research student	5
Joined when starting work in stem cell research, ethics or advocacy	4
Joined after attending a Network event	7
Joined when invited to present or chair at a Network event	2
Joined for attending events	2
Heard of the Network though word of mouth	3
Via the website	6
Via email	1
Unsure	2



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4. What has been of most interest to you in previous activities of the Network? Please number the relevant boxes in order of importance.

Rank Order Analysis										
Average Rank		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Networking with others	2.67									
Specific workshops	2.25									
All workshops	3.12									
Educational	3.35									
Hands-on training	5.81									
Regular email updates	2.63									
Newsletter	3.30									
None	8.00									
Other	5.00									
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to showcase our stem cell related products to a target audience • This shouldn't be last- but the great part i think these events play are that they are a space where science can engage with society to discuss stem cell research • There were not many training workshops so that I can learn more techniques • Very keen that the stem cell science works for humans suffering with various sicknesses • Bench mark conceptual, clinical, legal, political and commercial developments relative to other sites, in Australia and overseas • Important to keep up with what is happening in the field to enable me to properly understand issues that science community faces • Seminars and lectures 										



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5. What event type conducted by the Network has been the most successful? (select all that apply)

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Workshops (please comment below if one in particular)	48	55.17%					
2. Educational forums for community groups (comment below if one in particular)	19	21.84%					
3. Hands-on training	1	1.15%					
4. Only one particular event (please elaborate below)	2	2.30%					
5. No events	17	19.54%					
Total	87	100%	<p>Key Facts</p> <p>77.01% chose the following options : Workshops Educational forums for community groups</p> <p>Least chosen option 1.15% : Hands-on training</p>				

Comments

- I really liked the themed meetings, such the one lie iPS. It was a great way to get up date knowledge on the sciences and ethics and law.
- End of year seminar series
- Seminars
- Any of the one day events or seminars on stem cells are extremely useful
- I have participated in almost all stem cell network workshops. They have had a wonderful mix of topics, are run for the perfect length of time (afternoons) and are very accessible and informative. It is refreshing that not all seminar based information sessions are at conferences that are often further to travel and involve more expense.
- Just reading the newspapers and emails and keeping up-to-date with the science
- As am not based in NSW I cannot comment. However the workshops and forums seem very good.
- Recent workshop on iPS cell technology
- I have attended only one workshop, so I cannot comment.
- One held nearly to 2 years ago which Natasha Stott-Despoja attended.
- Stem cell developments, especially embryonic science and ethical or religious barriers to scientific progress.
- I am a late entrant to the NSW Stem Cell Network but have benefited greatly from the following:
 1st Annual Regenerative Medicine Symposium at Sydney University on Oct 1, 2009

 Sydney Centre for Regenerative Medicine Symposium held at Kolling Institute 1 July 2009



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8. If you answered 'Yes' to the above, should the Network engage in different activities from previously? If so, please elaborate.

Comments

1.	I haven't had an opportunity to attend any activities however just from what i can see, they seem extremely relevant and well organised
2.	Was there any training? I would like to see it in the future.
3.	I think it gives the NSW researchers a forum by which to present and get feedback on their data. In comparison, while there is an Australian Society of Immunology, each state has its own smaller Immunology groups (ie. ASI NSW, Bris Immuol Grp, Immunol grp Vic, etc..). I think the Stem Cell Network should have less frequent meetings but make them longer and more hard hitting (ie.1-2 days of presentations and discussions rather than a lunch presentation every few months).
4.	I think the general mode of workshops etc works well. But i would like to see more mixing of forums. such as discussions with community groups, social scientists. But also a more engaged role, such as making policy statements about certain positions after discussions eg submission to NSW and federal government on issues specific to stem cell research. It would also be interesting to do stuff about stem cell related issues eg xenotransplantation etc.
5.	I would hope that the Network will organize more training workshops.
6.	see items checked below
7.	join up with the other state networks
8.	Organising workshops should be the main function
9.	Forum where scientists present/ discuss methods/ techniques/ how to trouble shoot problems encountered in experiments.
10.	clinical trials, tissue engineering, tissue regeneration,
11.	Help keep stem cell research in the news!
12.	Ethics forums to include the community @ large
13.	NSW still seems to need a venue or forum to meet, perhaps more involvement from the new Kolling institute could be useful? The seminars and workshops seem to be worthwhile continuing.
14.	I think the workshops are great.
15.	possibly consider expanding to include other regions
16.	Encourage more students to present their work
17.	We need to find a way to bring all of the disparate stem cell groups from accross Australia together.
18.	Continue with activities but continue to liaise with ASSCR and other groups such as ASCC
19.	Facilitate interstate/national research collaborations/partnerships by assisting to identify and raise research funding and identifying research alignments between groups.
20.	Not sure.
21.	I think that its current scope is fine, but there may well be additional directions that members may wish to pursue
22.	form more collaborations
23.	It could foster links between academic and clinical research, and maybe even between academic and applied research and industry



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24.	Should also have a data base about stem cell research. The data base should be outlining all stem cell researchers in NSW for the purpose of sharing expertise and information.
25.	direct link to ASSCR, ensure international stem cell speakers visiting Australia come to NSW to talk
26.	Continue with workshops addressing broad spectrum of cutting-edge issues
27.	I think this has been a good format. Short workshop sessions half day or one day
28.	less emphasis on networking amongst scientists etc and more focus on enhancing community knowledge of stem cell science and the ethics of it - science communication work; topics could include the ethics of egg donation etc
29.	<p>The Network should NOT dilute or truncate its previous endeavours. If "different activities" are to be considered, then they should include demystifying the ethical concerns held by politicians, who have used their legislative powers to restrict stem cell research and ethics, as understood by Professor James Alexander Thomson (University of Wisconsin-Madison) in his approval of embryonic stem cell research (eg his concept of a "gold standard" in applying IVF embryo sources to stem cell research).</p> <p>The censorship of stem cell research should not be left unchallenged, from various theocratic centres of legislative power, such as the "born again" Christian fundamentalism from the USA, or misinformation from the Australian equivalent spin doctors who target legislative restrictions on Australian embryonic stem cell research.</p> <p>Taxation breaks could also be explored for listed ASX biotechnology companies to boost this Australian Industry. The Stem Cell community of stake holders could for example, market late phase clinical trials may apply for additional assistance where they demonstrate not only a health benefit (tax saving on health costs) for a particular disease, but secure medium term employment growth, with a multiplier effect to this industry.</p>
30.	probably best to work with ASSCR to facilitate contacts and who is doing what in the community
31.	I think all the listed activities are "legit" and in fact need to be kept sight of so a balanced view of SC utility can emerge. However, the emphasis should - I believe be different at different meetings so those with particular interests get good value in their chosen fields of interest.
32.	Public engagement and education to make various aspects of stem cell research accessible to policy-makers and interested members of community in general
33.	regular seminar series with local, national and international speakers
34.	The Network serves as a gathering group/location for getting folk together and discuss this new area of human health
35.	Carry on in the same way
36.	No. The Network provides an important function as is, and its current practices are in line with similar organisations around Australia and the world. Perhaps more community engagement would be good - it's very much science focused at the moment. Get more diversity in the network. Scientists have other places to network.
37.	lobby group to lobby for stem cell scholarships for PhD candidates
38.	international guest speakers
39.	As sketched in question 8.
40.	best to connect with the newsletters of the ISSCR, ASSCR and ASCC
41.	<p>Lobbying the State & Federal Governments for R&D support</p> <p>Raising the Profile of SC research and its clinical applications potential in the public mind - but honestly, without hype and in a realistic timeframe. I believe we have to honestly manage community expectations.</p>
42.	Hold a session on the importance of p53 family of proteins to the steps of determination and the commitment stages in differentiation



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43.	patients
44.	Ethicists
45.	The workshops to date have covered a range of very interesting topics and I feel the variety is what creates the sense of knowing about all aspects of stem cell research as well as promoting stem cell research.
46.	Ethics
47.	Ethicists
48.	Investment driven groups who may be either listed (ASX) or unlisted public companies, registered in Australia, to promote local employment know how and growth.

9. What sort of activities should the Network engage in for 2010?

Overall Matrix Scorecard

	Question	Count	Score	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1.	Workshops	71	1.507					
2.	Educational forums	69	1.754					
3.	Hands-on training sessions	63	2.349					
4.	Satellite meetings to the ASSCR	60	2.217					
5.	Advise on grant opportunities	64	1.953					
6.	Advise of job opportunities	65	2.062					
7.	Provide a regular list of stem cell publications	68	2.044					
8.	None	22	4.091					
9.	Other (please specify below)	11	3.185					
		Average	2.351					

Workshops



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Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	40	56.34%					
2. Agree	26	36.62%					
3. Neutral	5	7.04%					
4. Disagree	0	0.00%					
5. Strongly disagree	0	0.00%					
Total	71	100%					

Key Facts

92.96% chose the following options :
 Strongly agree
 Agree

Educational forums

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	27	39.13%					
2. Agree	33	47.83%					
3. Neutral	8	11.59%					
4. Disagree	1	1.45%					
5. Strongly disagree	0	0.00%					
Total	69	100%					

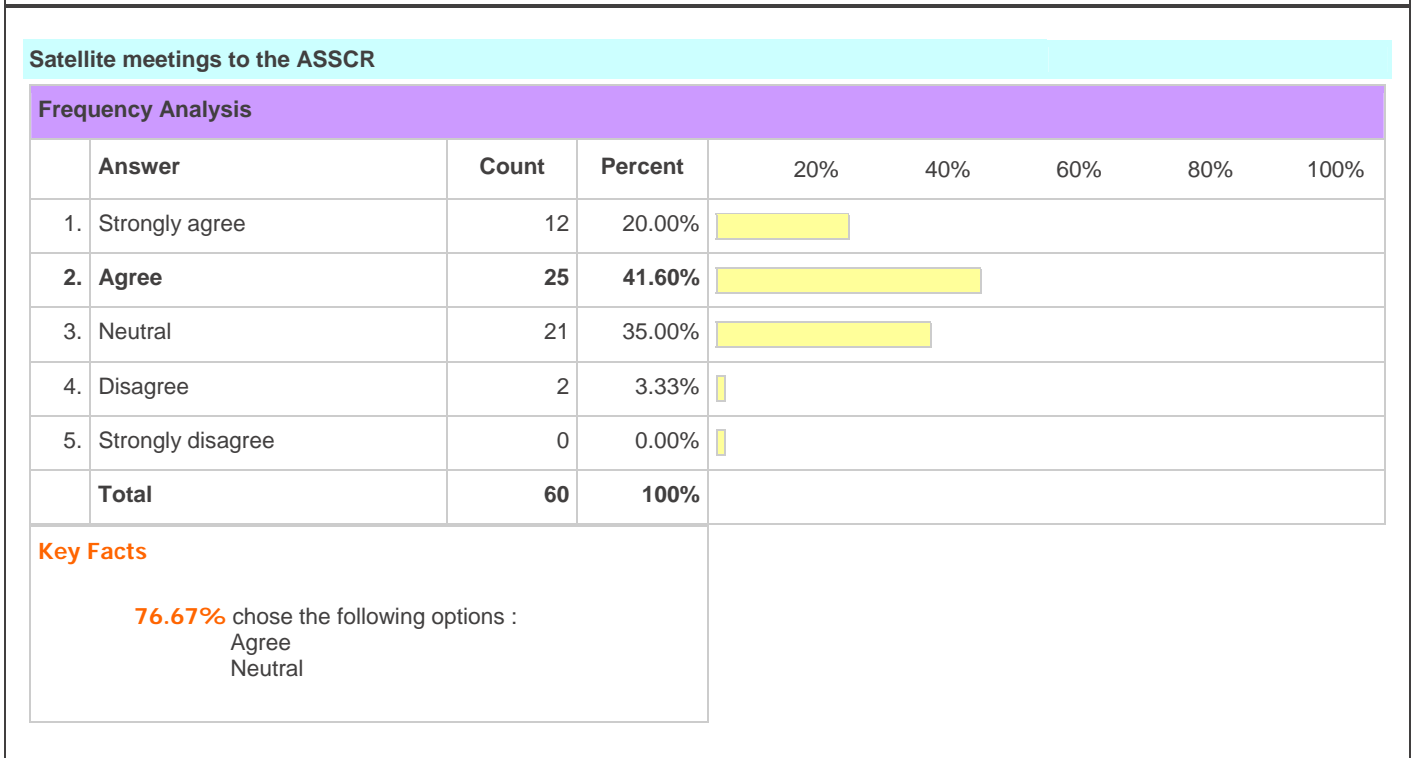
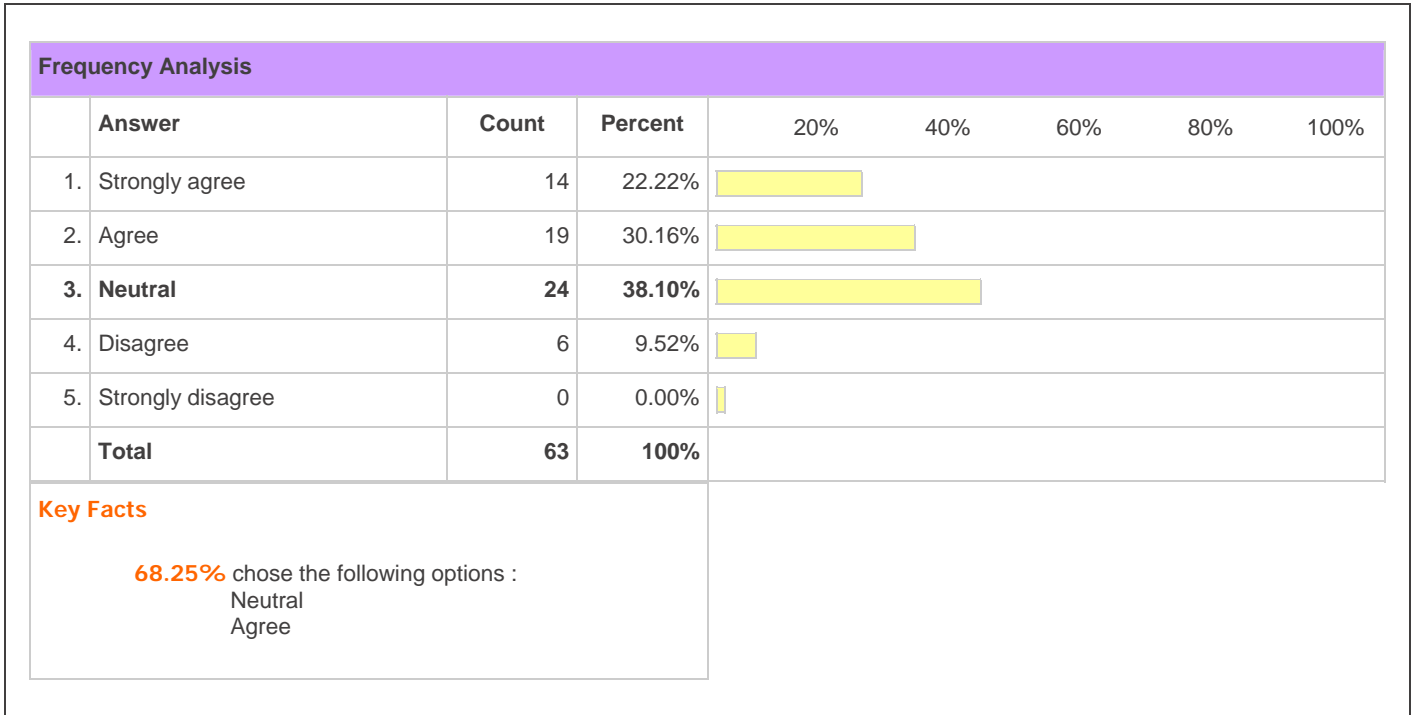
Key Facts

86.93% chose the following options :
 Agree
 Strongly agree

Hands-on training sessions



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Advise on grant opportunities

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	23	35.94%					
2. Agree	25	39.06%					
3. Neutral	12	18.75%					
4. Disagree	4	6.25%					
5. Strongly disagree	0	0.00%					
Total	64	100%					

Key Facts

75% chose the following options :
Agree

Advise of job opportunities

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	17	26.15%					
2. Agree	31	47.69%					
3. Neutral	13	20.00%					
4. Disagree	4	6.15%					
5. Strongly disagree	0	0.00%					
Total	65	100%					

Key Facts

73.85% chose the following options :
Agree
Strongly agree



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Provide a regular list of stem cell publications

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	22	32.35%					
2. Agree	25	36.76%					
3. Neutral	17	25.00%					
4. Disagree	4	5.88%					
5. Strongly disagree	0	0.00%					
Total	68	100%					

Key Facts

69.12% chose the following options :
Agree

None

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	1	4.55%					
2. Agree	1	4.55%					
3. Neutral	5	22.73%					
4. Disagree	3	13.64%					
5. Strongly disagree	12	54.55%					
Total	22	100%					

Key Facts

77.27% chose the following options :
Strongly disagree
Neutral
Least chosen option **4.55%** :
Strongly agree



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Other (please specify below)

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	1	9.09%					
2. Agree	0	0.00%					
3. Neutral	8	72.73%					
4. Disagree	0	0.00%					
5. Strongly disagree	2	18.18%					
Total	11	100%					

Key Facts

90.91% chose the following options :
Neutral

10. Do you prefer to hear presentations from:

Overall Matrix Scorecard

Question	Count	Score	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1. International stem cell research experts	72	1.361					
2. Local stem cell research experts	73	1.521					
3. Non-scientific experts	62	2.500					
4. Non-professional groups	56	2.732					
5. Students	61	2.311					
6. Government	65	2.154					
7. Lawyers	57	2.649					
8. Other (please specify in the box below)	12	2.833					
Average		2.258					



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International stem cell research experts

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	46	63.89%					
2. Agree	26	36.11%					
3. Neutral	0	0.00%					
4. Disagree	0	0.00%					
5. Strongly disagree	0	0.00%					
Total	72	100%					

Key Facts

100% chose the following options :
Strongly agree

Local stem cell research experts

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	40	54.79%					
2. Agree	29	39.73%					
3. Neutral	3	4.11%					
4. Disagree	1	1.37%					
5. Strongly disagree	0	0.00%					
Total	73	100%					

Key Facts

94.52% chose the following options :
Strongly agree
Agree



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Non-scientific experts

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	12	19.35%					
2. Agree	20	32.26%					
3. Neutral	19	30.65%					
4. Disagree	9	14.52%					
5. Strongly disagree	2	3.23%					
Total	62	100%					

Key Facts

62.9% chose the following options :
 Agree
 Neutral
 Least chosen option **3.23%** :

Non-professional groups

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	7	12.50%					
2. Agree	12	21.43%					
3. Neutral	27	48.21%					
4. Disagree	9	16.07%					
5. Strongly disagree	1	1.79%					
Total	56	100%					

Key Facts

69.64% chose the following options :
 Neutral
 Agree
 Least chosen option **1.79%** :
 Strongly disagree



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Students

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	9	14.75%					
2. Agree	29	47.54%					
3. Neutral	19	31.15%					
4. Disagree	3	4.92%					
5. Strongly disagree	1	1.64%					
Total	61	100%					

Key Facts

78.69% chose the following options :
 Agree
 Neutral

Least chosen option **1.64%** :
 Strongly disagree

Government

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	13	20.00%					
2. Agree	35	53.85%					
3. Neutral	13	20.00%					
4. Disagree	2	3.08%					
5. Strongly disagree	2	3.08%					
Total	65	100%					

Key Facts

73.85% chose the following options :
 Agree
 Strongly agree

Least chosen option **3.08%** :
 Disagree



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Lawyers

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	7	12.28%					
2. Agree	16	28.07%					
3. Neutral	27	47.37%					
4. Disagree	4	7.02%					
5. Strongly disagree	3	5.26%					
Total	57	100%					

Key Facts

75.44% chose the following options :
Neutral
Agree

Least chosen option **5.26%** :
Strongly disagree

Other (please specify in the box below)

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Strongly agree	1	8.33%					
2. Agree	2	16.67%					
3. Neutral	8	66.67%					
4. Disagree	0	0.00%					
5. Strongly disagree	1	8.33%					
Total	12	100%					

Key Facts

83.33% chose the following options :
Neutral
Agree



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11. How many events should the Network hold per year?

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. None	1	1.43%					
2. 1-2	20	28.57%					
3. 3-4	41	58.57%					
4. 5-6	4	5.71%					
5. Other (please specify)	4	5.71%					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As many as appropriate Within its budget, a growth program for the next 5 years ?? strange question At least once every month 							
Total	70	100%					

Key Facts

87.14% chose the following options :
 3-4
 1-2
 Least chosen option 1.43% :
 None

12. Should the NSW Stem Cell Network advise government on stem cell matters?

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Yes	61	88.41%					
2. No	8	11.59%					
Total	69	100%					



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13. If you answered 'Yes' to the above, in what manner should the NSW Stem Cell Network advise government? (select all that apply)

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Informal consultation	38	27.74%					
2. Professional presentations	49	35.77%					
3. White papers	39	28.47%					
4. Other (please elaborate)	11	8.03%					
Total	137	100%	Key Facts 64.23% chose the following options : Professional presentations White papers Least chosen option 8.03% : Other (please elaborate)				

Comments

1.	I believe the Stem Cell Network should play an activist role as well in promoting stem cell research. I do realise this may be idealistic and may compromise the network especially in controversial areas.
2.	Updating government bodies re. up-to-date research activities and the technologies involved in the huge potential of stem cell research for health and well being. Invitations to attend the workshops would be a good start and combine the holding of workshops with dissemination of information.
3.	In conjunction with other stem cell groups. This is particularly important with the impending legislative reviews
4.	There should also be formal consultation - not only informal. It is also very important that if and when major research findings emerge, findings which may not necessarily attract the attention of government, the Network should inform government of such developments
5.	Facilitating both parties to understand each other.
6.	In which ever capacity is available.
7.	The "advice" message is more critical than the format. The substance should be to demystify the current censorship of embryonic stem cell research, as defined in the concept of a "gold standard" presented by Professor James Alexander Thomson, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. Stem cell research is global, and therefore any State Government in Australia should be aware of overseas progress in "ethics", legislation and research, whilst adopting a unique leadership role.
8.	Keep them aware of significant work in the field in NSW - with an objective assessment of its international competitiveness
9.	Ethical issue of stem cell
10.	The NSW Stem Cell Network has an important role to play in advising the NSW Government on policy issues and future developments. The knowledge based bio economy is arguably a fundamental driver of economic development at local, regional and national levels and the NSW Government has committed to this approach too. The role of the NSW Stem Cell Network in providing informed advice to government cannot be overlooked.
11.	Form a scientific advisory committee

14. Should the Network advise the community on stem cell matters?



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Frequency Analysis									
Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%		
1. Yes	62	84.93%							
2. No	11	15.07%							
Total	73	100%							

15. If you answered, 'Yes' to the above, how should the Network advise the community on stem cell matters? (select all that apply)

Frequency Analysis									
Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%		
1. Informal networking	30	27.27%							
2. Educational forums	54	49.09%							
3. White papers	16	14.55%							
4. Other (please elaborate)	10	9.09%							
Total	110	100%	<p>Key Facts</p> <p>76.36% chose the following options : Educational forums Informal networking</p> <p>Least chosen option 9.09% : Other (please elaborate)</p>						

Comments

1.	especially advocate groups
2.	In addition, the Network needs to provide a conduit into the mass media - print, tv, radio - by identifying a key person in each of those media outlets. Maybe the Network might also explore the possibilities of community communication via contemporary electronic 'media' / forums
3.	Public seminars
4.	Engage with existing community groups and events and use opportunities to 'slot in' to present their views
5.	Correct information is essential for the public to make informed choices and there is a lot of misinformation regarding stem cells in the community
6.	<p>Fundamentals of embryonic stem cells should not be glossed over by a singular focus on non embryonic stem cell structure and function.</p> <p>The "community" should include students at all levels, journalists, film and media organisations.</p> <p>More specifically, for example, State schools curricula text books in basic science, from year 8, and primary school texts need effect visual graphics to demonstrate, the relative size of an embryo less than 14 days old, and whether any live organs are functioning.</p>



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	Ignorance of empirical graphic biology is being substituted with religious mythology designed to badly portray the role of IVF embryos, or, embryonic stem cell research.
	The role of IVF research in a modern community, and the ethics of surplus embryos needs graphic illustrations with balanced text on the topic of "ethics".
7.	Response to Media statements & enquiries
8.	Open-days and media profile.
9.	via media or with ASSC
10.	through media

16. Would you be interested in being actively involved in the NSW Stem Cell Network organising committee?

Frequency Analysis

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
1. Yes	17	23.94%					
2. No	54	76.06%					
Total	71	100%					

Any other comments?

Comments

1.	please send me notification whom to contact regarding future international collaborations between NSW and USA
2.	The NSW Stem Cell Network was a great initiative and from this other events have begun such as the UNSW Stem Cell symposia. Perhaps if the NSW Stem Cell Network is to continue it needs to incorporate in a more active manner the universities and research institutes involved in stem cell research. Input from representatives from the various research areas throughout NSW would be advantageous in the gaining of ideas and perhaps even in the organising of events such as workshops. Having local workshops makes information more accessible and for researchers struggling for funds a more affordable option in comparison to travelling to conferences further afield. Thank you for the work of the past and hopefully the future.
3.	I believe that the Network provides an excellent service to researchers. It is now time to widen its scope and range of influence to the broader contexts of government, media, and the general community. It should be possible in this electronic age to do this without a significant expenditure of additional resources.
4.	Keep up the good work
5.	not living in NSW I feels slightly remote - but still I see much good value in it
6.	time will not permit me to do so in 2010
7.	The work of the People to date from the NSW Stem Cell Network is highly appreciated and valued.
8.	already am actively involved
9.	I am not located in Sydney and now starting to age unfortunately



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10.	As a member of the media, I'm mainly interested in being informed of the science and the issues surrounding stem cells - with the Network acting as a bridge between the scientific community and us. I know that's not the central role of the Network though.
11.	Great work - thanks
12.	Sorry, I currently have too many other commitments to go on the organising committee and my knowledge and involvement in the stem cell community is probably not as strong as others.