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## ISSCR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, June 16-19, 2010

*Sponsored by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) the ISSCR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, CA USA.*

### ISSCR/CIRM Global Regulatory Workshop Planned

A one-day regulatory workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 15, 2010 — the day before the ISSCR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting opens in San Francisco, CA USA (June 16 – 19). This workshop was identified as a need by the Committee on Clinical Translation following the publication of the ISSCR's *Guidelines on the Clinical Translation of Stem Cells*. The meeting will focus on global regulatory frameworks for stem cell clinical trials and is a forum for looking at the issues involved in harmonizing regulatory features internationally so that there are registered clinical trials conducted under common minimum standards accepted by global and national government regulators. The workshop is intended for heads of IRBs, MOHs, researchers in industry and translational researchers, government regulators, quality control and quality assurance staff, and interested ISSCR annual meeting registrants in attendance.

Please help the ISSCR identify appropriate people from your regions who should receive priority notice about this workshop by sending names and contact information to Glori Rosenson, [grosenson@isscr.org](mailto:grosenson@isscr.org). Registration will be required and attendance will be limited to 300.

### NEW: Satellite Sessions at the ISSCR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in San Francisco

The ISSCR will announce in October, an application process for satellite sessions to be held the morning of June 15, 2010, in Moscone West, just prior to the opening of the ISSCR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Up to three satellite sessions proposed by non-profit or academic centers will be given conference rooms and will be included in ISSCR Annual Meeting announcement materials. Additional information can be obtained on the ISSCR Web site ([www.isscr.org](http://www.isscr.org)) and in *The Pulse* e-newsletter.

Abstract submission for the ISSCR 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be available from Oct. 13, 2009 through Jan. 14, 2010, Registration for the meeting begins Dec. 7, 2009.

### ISSCR Web Site on Unproven Stem Cell Therapies

The ISSCR recently named a Task Force on Unproven Stem Cell Therapies with a charge to develop a policy statement leading, for patients' benefit, to a listing of asserted stem cell therapies that are, to the knowledge of the society, unsupported by published scientific studies, and a listing of individuals, clinics or other entities practicing unproven stem cell therapies. The primary purpose is to develop a Web site that will be a resource for patients, advocacy groups, clinicians, and associations in evaluating claims of benefit from unproven stem cell therapies. This is expected to include a list of clinics and programs that come to the attention of ISSCR that provide an unproven stem cell treatment. The task force will not list proven therapies, and therefore does not act as a review body. The task force is chaired by Patrick Taylor, MD, Children's Hospital Boston. Relevant groups will be asked to interact with the task force in the generation of the report.

### **ISSCR Registry of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Line Provenance**

The registry has been designed to receive and collate information and documentation pertaining to the derivation of human embryonic stem cell lines, the oversight processes in place at the time, and other ethically-relevant parameters. The purpose of the ISSCR registry is to provide common access to such data in the manner local stem cell research oversight bodies or funding bodies would customarily accept, thereby minimizing the burden on investigators, oversight bodies and sharing institutions, and facilitating a broad assimilation of lines from around the world by the research community. Access to the platform is expected to open publically over the next few months, with continued expansion of the registered listings as the registry develops.

### **ISSCR Staff News**

Heather Rooke, PhD, delivered a beautiful baby girl, Caitlin Rosemary Rooke Schlaeger, on August 21 and is currently 'enjoying' maternity leave until mid-November. Heather was recognized by the ISSCR Board of Directors for her significant contributions to the success of the society and was promoted to Science Director, effective Sept. 17.

The ISSCR is growing and a new position, Scientific Affairs Manager, will be added in January, 2010. The ISSCR preferably seeks a PhD with experience in stem cell biology. Information regarding the position is posted on the ISSCR Web site ([www.isscr.org](http://www.isscr.org)).

### **ISSCR Leaders Receive Awards**

ISSCR president elect, Elaine Fuchs, PhD receives the National Medal of Science for her studies on the biology of mammalian skin diseases at a ceremony on Oct. 7 at the White House.

The ISSCR congratulates Shinya Yamanaka, MD, PhD, Kyoto University, and John Gurdon, DPhil, Cambridge University, for receiving the 2009 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award for their breakthrough research in nuclear reprogramming and stem cells. Yamanaka was elected to the ISSCR Board of Directors in 2008 and has been an invited speaker at five ISSCR Annual Meetings. Gurdon was an ISSCR invited speaker at the 2006 Annual Meeting (Toronto) and keynote speaker at the 2008 meeting (Philadelphia).

### **ISSCR Growth**

The ISSCR held an extremely successful 7th Annual Meeting, co-sponsored by the Center for Regenerative Medicine in Barcelona (CMRB) and the Center for Genomic Regulation (CRG) in Barcelona, Spain this July 8-11 with 3,144 registered attendees.

The growth in the Annual Meeting is a reflection of this year's 30% membership growth, bringing the total number of society members to 3391 as of Sept. 30, 2009. We are encouraged by the international representation of members, including 46% from North America, 29% from Europe, 17% from Asia, 5% from Australia/New Zealand and 2% and 1% respectively from the Middle East and Central/South America/Africa. We are also encouraged by the number of young scientists who continue to join the field and represent 42% of the membership.

Submitted by Nancy Witty, Executive Director  
For ISSCR Highlights Update  
October 8, 2009