

INTERSTATE ALLIANCE FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

FALL MEETING: September 9TH – 10TH 2008-09-06

CANADA UPDATE

1. *Stem Cell Network (SCN)*

The SCN recently awarded funding for 10 Core Research projects and one cell imaging/tracking Core Facility that were approved after reviews by the Scientific Advisory Board, the Research Management Committee and the Board of Directors. The projects will collectively receive \$10 million in Network funding for the period from October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2011. A total of 46 PIs will receive funding from the program, which includes 12 new Network Members.

2. *Canada – U.S. East Coast Stem Cell/Regenerative Medicine Initiative (FY08-FY10)*

The National Research Council/Institute for Biological Sciences (NRC – IBS) hosted on July 7th a one day meeting to discuss the strategic approach of the proposed Canada – U.S. East Coast Stem Cell/Regenerative Medicine Initiative. Participants included of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) offices in Boston, Princeton, and Raleigh; NRC management, business development, and stem cell/regenerative medicine researchers from NRC-IBS and the NRC Institute for Biodegnostics (NRC-IBD); and representatives from Sanofi-aventis (New Jersey) and the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine (North Carolina).

The Initiative will seek to identify projects of significant therapeutic value and consider ways of accelerating the R&D and commercialization of these projects. Furthermore, it will facilitate the creation of collaborative activity along the supply chain of innovation to market between US and Canadian stakeholders, including industry, government, research/academic institutions, appropriate non-profits, and investors. The Initiative will look for opportunities for S&T, expanded trade, investment, and R&D collaborations or other strategic alliances, which are mutually beneficial to participating entities.

3. *Canada – California Cancer Stem Cell Research Partnership*

On June 2008, a three-year collaborative project on cancer stem cell research was signed by the Canadian Cancer Stem Cell Consortium (CSCC) and California's CIRM. The agreement lays down the foundation for CIRM and CSCC to explore collaborative approaches to evaluate, fund and monitor cancer stem cell research projects leading to therapies or diagnostics.

The Canadian government has committed \$100 million dollars to the Cancer Consortium. The SCN is one of the founders of the CSCC, the principal Canadian partner in the agreement, and catalyzed the national approach to cancer stem cell research on which it is based.

For further information contact:

Christine Sarkisian
Business Development Officer
Consulate General of Canada
Three Copley Place, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02116 USA
Tel: 617-262-3760, ext. 3360
Fax: 617-262-3415
christine.sarkisian@international.gc.ca