



Newsletter

NSW Stem Cell Network

Issue 11, Dec 2015



In this issue

22nd Workshop
Stem Cells and Genetic
Muscle Disorders

23rd Workshop
Stem Cells and the
Gastrointestinal System

Symposium
Stem Cell Companies
More than one way to
get to Marketplace

Snapshot Stem Cell
Companies

Wolper Jewish Hospital
Grant

Save the date!

24th Workshop
Stem Cells and Cancer

Wednesday 6th April

Darlington Centre
University of Sydney

Stay tuned for more
information!

22nd Workshop: Stem Cells and Genetic Muscle Disorders

The NSW Stem Cell Network, with the help of Dr Heather Main (Genea Biocells), Professor Edna Hardeman (UNSW) and Kristina Cabala (The Heart Foundation), organised a workshop on *Stem Cells and Genetic Muscle Disorders* on April 13th at the Darlington Centre, University of Sydney. The program consisted of prominent skeletal and cardiac muscle researchers from across Australia, including Prof. Miranda Grounds (University of WA), Dr James Chong (University of Sydney) and Prof. Peter Currie (Monash University), amongst others, who discussed their exciting new findings in the areas of muscle developmental biology, disease modeling and therapeutics. The aim of the workshop was to promote cross-disciplinary research in order to accelerate the translation of stem cells to the clinic. The Workshop was opened by the highly regarded Bill Moss, OA, Founder and Chairman of FSHD Global, and the Workshop finished with a panel session discussing where stem cell research is at in terms of translating what we learn from the bench to the clinic.



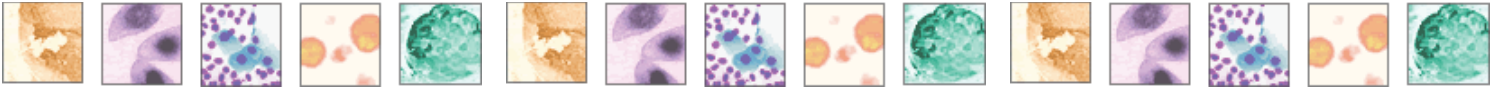
Dr. James Chong (University of Sydney), Dr. Leslie Caron (Genea Biocells and Prof. Miranda Grounds (University of Western Australia) (seated: left to right) discuss issues related to muscular dystrophies during the panel session. The session was chaired by Prof. Edna Hardeman (UNSW) (far left) and addressed issues including the best methods for overcoming muscular dystrophies, and whether stem cell therapies are a viable treatment option for patients with these debilitating conditions.



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23rd Workshop: Stem Cells and the Gastrointestinal System

On Wednesday 7th October, the NSW Stem Cell Network hosted their 23rd Workshop on *Stem Cells and the Gastrointestinal System*. The workshop was again held at the Darlington Centre, University of Sydney and was targeted towards professionals and students in the areas of dental, liver, pancreas and bowel research. It was with great excitement that The NSW Stem Cell Network welcomed the Hon Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health, who opened the Workshop (below), followed by a host of prominent Australian researchers and clinicians including Prof. Yin Xiao (Queensland University of Technology), A/Prof Helen Abud (University of Melbourne), Prof. Robert Ramsay (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre), Prof. Rupert Leong (University of Sydney) and Prof. Minoti Apte OAM, University of NSW), just to name a few.

The aim of the workshop was again to promote cross disciplinary research and stimulate innovative solutions to a variety of conditions that span the GI tract.

The success of both workshops was only made possible by the high caliber of research being conducted across the country, making the programs “interesting”, “useful” and “important areas of focus”.

To view the workshop programs, visit:
http://stemcellnetwork.org.au/past_events/past_events.htm



Stem Cells in the Hunter Valley

Stem Cell Companies: More than One Way to get to the Marketplace

On Tuesday 10th November, 2015, The NSW Stem Cell Network hosted a symposium at the joint meeting of the Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research (ASSCR), Stem Cells Australia and The NSW Stem Cell Network: *Stem Cells in the Hunter Valley*

The Network invited five Australian companies to present their business models, representing five different areas of stem cell research, including:
Cord Blood Banking: Cell Care; Mesenchymal Stem Cells: Orthocell; Pluripotent Stem Cells: Cynata;
Manufacturing: Cell Therapies and Medical Devices: Cytomatrix.

The symposium was engaging, thought-provoking and well attended.

To view the program for the list of speakers, visit:
http://stemcellnetwork.org.au/past_events/past_events.htm

Snapshot of Stem Cell Companies in Australia

The NSW Stem Cell Network launched the first edition of ‘A Snapshot of Stem Cell Companies in Australia’ at the Stem Cells in the Hunter Valley Meeting on Tuesday 10th November. The Snapshot was released during the NSW Stem Cell Network’s Symposium: *Stem Cell Companies: More than one way to get to the marketplace* with the aim of providing representation of stem cell companies in Australia.

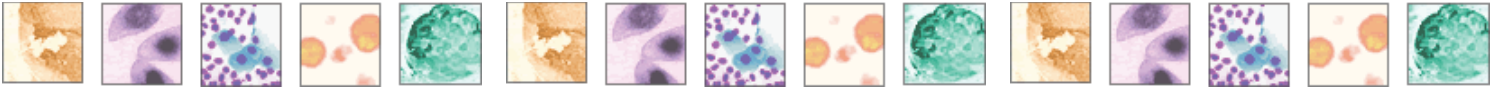
The Snapshot can be found at:
http://stemcellnetwork.org.au/past_events/past_events.htm



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NSW Stem Cell Network Awarded a Wolper Jewish Hospital Health Foundation Grant

The NSW Stem Cell Network has been awarded a \$20,000 Health Foundation Grant from the Wolper Jewish Hospital, to facilitate The Network's goal of bringing Pluripotent Stem Cell Companies, including ViaCyte, to Australia to promote stem cell clinical trials for conditions including dry macular degeneration and type 1 diabetes. The grant is awarded to organisations and individuals to help fund initiatives, programs and projects that assist in the health and well-being of the community.

*Right: Prof. Bernie Tuch and Dr Kelvin Hopper;
Below: Dr. Daniella Goldberg
(NSW Stem Cell Network Executive committee members)*



The NSW Stem Cell Network

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