

The SCI's Annual Review 2014 is out now! Find it at <http://bit.ly/1GJWYWe>

ISAB and Annual Retreat

This year, we will be splitting the ISAB Meeting and Retreat into two events. The ISAB Meeting will take place on the 16th of December and will be a PI-only event. The Annual Retreat will take place on the 25th–26th February 2016 and will be open to the whole SCI.



SCI Identity

SCI members belong to our community no matter where in Cambridge they are based. In line with this, we have adopted a uniform brand at our three major sites, which are now each known simply as the **Wellcome Trust—Medical Research Council Cambridge Stem Cell Institute** at:

- The Gleeson Building
- The Anne McLaren Laboratory
- and The Clifford Allbutt Building.

Paul Bertone



The SCI is pleased to welcome Dr Paul Bertone who started with us as a PI on 7th January.

Paul is based in the Gleeson Building and works on transcriptional regulation of pluripotency in ES cells and embryonic development.

Athena SWAN

We are proud to announce that SCI at the Gleeson Building has received an Athena SWAN Bronze Award for our commitment to equality. The awards recognise commitment to advancing women's careers in STEMM subjects in higher education and research.



Katrin Ottersbach



Katrin Ottersbach has left the Institute to take up a position at the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine in Edinburgh as a Chancellor's Fellow/Senior Lecturer.

We wish Katrin all the very best for her transition and future research.

New Coordinator

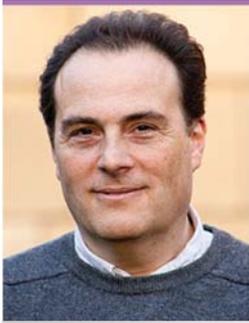
In February, SCI welcomed Sam McGinty as our new Co-ordinator. Sam is responsible for sharing information across the community, building the profile of the Institute both within and outside of the University, and running SCI events including Annual Meetings, Retreats and Symposia.



Visit the SCI website and Intranet for further information on SCI activities and to access members-only information.

www.stemcells.cam.ac.uk

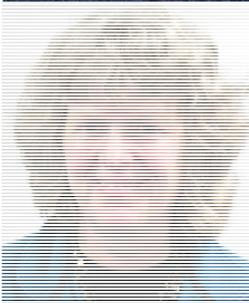
Achievements



Ben Simons
Franklin Medal and Prize 2014
For the application of non-equilibrium statistical mechanics to provide fundamental new insights into the mechanisms that regulate stem cell behaviour in tissue maintenance and disease.



Luca Peruzzotti-Jametti MD (PhD candidate, Pluchino group)
Research Training Fellowship
'Directly induced neural stem cells (iNSCs) for the treatment of progressive multiple sclerosis (PMS_iNSC)'.



Jenny Nichols
BBSRC Grant
With Prof. Alfonso Martinez Arias - *'The encoding and interpretation of FGF signals in mammalian cell fate choice'*



Bon-Kyoung Koo
ERC Starting Grant
Troy+ stomach stem cells in tissue homeostasis and injury-repair.



Stefano Pluchino
CDMRP Grant
Preclinical work to ease the translation of patient-specific neural stem cell therapies to patients with progressive multiple sclerosis (MS).



Kevin Chalut
MRC award
'Developing biomimetic matrices for enhanced cellular reprogramming'
BBRSC award
'The auxetic nucleus: nuclear mechanotransduction and its role in regulating stem cell differentiation'.



David Kent
European Hematology Association Non-Clinical Advanced Research Fellowship
The cellular characterisation of clonal evolution in myeloid malignancies.



Michaela Frye
Wordwide Cancer Research Grant
'Manipulating protein synthesis as a strategy to control tumor growth'



Abdulrahim Sajini (PhD candidate, Frye group)
Innovation and Entrepreneurship Prize for Saudi Students in the UK
Mr Sajini won the Gold medal prize for his idea for a smart scholarly search engine.



Brian Huntly
ERC Grant
The role of the cohesin complex in haematopoietic stem cell function.



Morteza Jalali (clinical PhD student, Vallier group) signed a contract with Elsevier for a book on basic science research methods aimed at students and clinicians embarking on laboratory-based science.

 Something to be proud of? Have you won a poster prize? Been awarded a significant grant? Whatever it is, let us know!
sci-coordinator@stemcells.cam.ac.uk

Engaging the Public

Philippa Russell, SCI Public Engagement Officer

In 2014, the Institute was awarded a Wellcome Trust 'Provision for Public Engagement' grant, which enabled the appointment of the Institute's first Public Engagement Officer. Philippa took up the post in January 2015.



Many members of the institute independently plan and take part in public events. I hope to be able to support and coordinate these efforts. If you are planning any type of public activity, please notify me early on and I may be able to help with provision of resources, volunteers, funding or ideas. I will also ensure that your participation is recorded can be used to help with future grant applications.

“The purpose of my role is to encourage fruitful interactions between SCI researchers and the public. Ensuring that the Institute's research is open and accessible to a wide audience will enable us to be responsive to external perceptions, whilst encouraging public support for our work ”

PhD students are expected to undertake at least one public engagement activity during their studentship and all institute members are actively encouraged to do the same. I will be working hard to make it simple and enjoyable to meet this expectation. Participation can take many forms – from planning and coordinating to 'centre-stage'.

I will be organising training opportunities for those who wish to develop their communication and presentation skills. I will also provide templates and guidelines to help complete 'public engagement' or 'Pathways to Impact' sections of grant applications.

Big Biology Day

A team of volunteers from the SCI contributed to the third successful Big Biology Day as part of Big Biology week in October. We used our giant floor game and mini lab experiment to teach about stem cells.



2014 Annual Meeting

The afternoon sessions of last year's Annual Meeting were dedicated to public engagement. Institute members explored ways of handling public questions about stem cell research, how to deliver radio interviews and press releases, and how to develop hands on activities for public events.



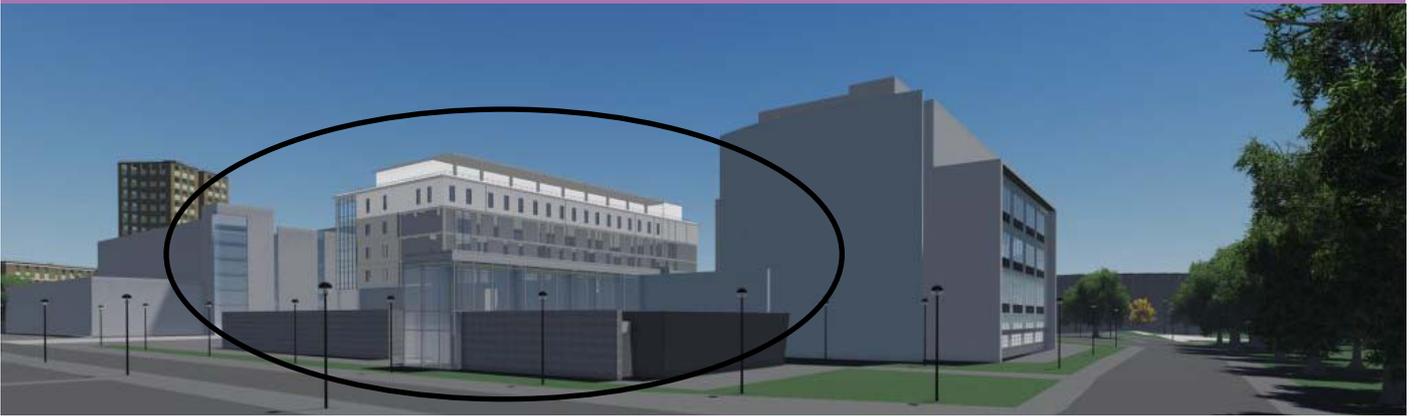
To get involved, or if you are already involved in a public project we should know about, contact Philippa at scipeo@stemcells.cam.ac.uk

Cambridge Science Festival 2015

Hundreds of children had the opportunity to learn about differentiation and to meet the fantastic team of volunteers at this year's Science Festival. Special thanks to Dr Elisa Laurenti for supporting us at the adults-only evening session and to Ana Amaral, Chair of the Committee, who spent over 12 hours inspiring young scientists! Thanks also to Dr Jenny Nichols, Dr Brian Hendrich, Dr Brian Huntly and Dr Ragnhildur Thóra Káradóttir who embraced the challenge of presenting their research to over 400 members of the public at our evening talks. To all of the 28 volunteers, thank you for giving your time and for demonstrating that enthusiasm for public engagement is already widespread at the Institute.



New Building (Project Capella)



The new building is on track to be operational in May 2018, with main construction works beginning in October 2015. Since Stage 1 the building size has increased from 16,000 m² to 18,000 m² with the addition of the new Therapeutics Institute, building on the original consortium led by the Gurdon Institute. The project is approaching the end of the Concept Design phase following the issue of the RIBA Stage 2 Report on March 30th.

Conceptual floor plans have now been developed along with an outline of structural and servicing strategies for the building.

The next stage:

Stage 3 (Developed Design) looks to resolve the design to a higher level of detail. The size of spaces will be tested and amended to ensure they can accommodate equipment, furnishings and services but maximizing researcher occupancy in the remainder of the building.

Upcoming Events

Public Events

21st May

See Inside the Stem Cell Institute (public tour)

22nd Sept

Public speaking and research communication master-class for women in science (training)

25th Sept

Stem Cell Research: behind the scenes (Alumni event)

Stem Cell Club

Invited speakers are members of, or visitors to, the Cambridge stem cell community. The talks are followed by refreshments and an opportunity to discuss the topics of the evening. From 2015, SCI Stem Cell Club alternates between the Sanger Building and the Clifford Allbutt Building, Cambridge Biomedical Campus.

- 17 June 2015 - Biochemistry
- 29 July 2015 - CAB
- 30 Sept 2015 - Biochemistry



External Seminars

- 22/06/15 Berenika Plusa (Host: SCI Postdocs)
24/09/15 Christine Mummery (Host: SCI Postdocs)
09/10/15 Anne Brunet (Host: Michaela Frye)
05/11/15 Jacco van Rheenen (Host: Bon-Kyoung Koo)

Please contact Austin Smith with any breaking stories:

Translational Workshop

The first SCI Translational Workshop takes place on the 8th of June. The goal of the Workshop is to bring together PIs from within and without SCI to demonstrate their translational work, generate new ideas and discover opportunities for collaboration.