

Member Newsletter

Issue 4 — April 2014

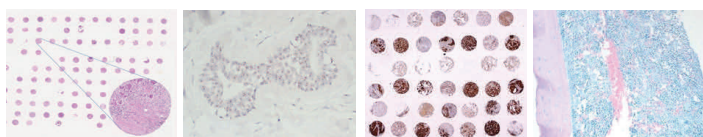
Annual Review 2013

The 2013 SCI Annual Review has now been published. Thank you to everyone who provided data. Copies have been circulated to PIs, Affiliates and relevant institutes/organisations. An electronic copy is available to read online or you can download a PDF copy. Visit our [website](http://www.stemcells.cam.ac.uk) to read the Review.



Enhanced Histology Services at the SCI

The Histology Facility at the SCI has expanded its services to incorporate novel methods to assist in all aspects of stem cell tissue research. In-situ hybridisation, automated immunohistochemistry, utilising both DNA and RNA probes, specific tinctorial stains e.g. Giemsa for haemopoietic cells are now available. The facility can help with the design of tissue staining protocols using both chromogenic and fluorescence probes including double staining protocols for co-localisation of antibody targets. The introduction of tissue microarrays enables staining of up to 100 samples on a single slide. Tissue culture samples can be processed to paraffin wax for downstream analysis. The facility now provides a standard two week processing to H&E for most samples and can also offer an "urgent" service to meet those publishing deadlines.



Tissue Microarrays, In-situ Hybridisation, Automated Immunohistochemistry, Special Staining Techniques, all these and many more now available from the SCI histopathology facility.

The histopathology team are happy to discuss all your research requirements and look forward to working with you. Please contact histopathology@stemcells.cam.ac.uk.



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

www.stemcells.cam.ac.uk

Annual Call for Group Leaders

The SCI has launched its open international call for independent group leaders.

The Institute is seeking new Group Leaders at both junior and senior level to complement and extend our existing programmes and contribute to ground-breaking discoveries in stem cell science. Applications in any area of mammalian stem cell biology are welcome and we are particularly interested in interfaces with mathematical, physical or chemical biology; bioengineering; malignancy and regenerative medicine.

Group Leader candidate presentations will be at the Sanger Lecture Theatre on Tennis Court Road in the afternoon of Tuesday 29th July.

Further details of the call can be found on our [website](http://www.stemcells.cam.ac.uk).

New Call for Clinician Scientists

A new call for Clinician Scientists has been advertised by the SCI. The Institute is seeking to recruit Clinician scientists at both junior and senior level to complement our existing programmes and contribute to translating ground-breaking developments in stem cell science into better management of malignancies and new regenerative medicines.

Further details of the call can be found on our [website](http://www.stemcells.cam.ac.uk).

Stem Cell Club - May

Hitoshi Niwa, Sarah Teichmann and Alan Warren will be speaking on 15th May at the Stem Cell Club.

New Grants



UK Regenerative
Medicine Platform

PSCP Hub

Austin Smith and a consortium of 5 partners have been awarded £4.5million by the UK Regenerative Medicine Platform (UKRMP) to establish the Pluripotent Stem Cell Platform (PSCP). The PSCP is a collaborative research hub directed by Peter Andrews (Centre for Stem Cell Biology, Sheffield University), also comprising the SCI, EPSRC Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in Regenerative Medicine (Loughborough University), NIBSC, WTSI, and the Babraham Institute. The PSCP aims to provide methodologies for the scalable production of safe and effective derivatives of human PSC for use for regenerative medicine. Philip Driver, based at the LRM, has been appointed project manager.



PluriMes



Austin Smith and a Consortium of 12 partners have been awarded a €6million EC FP7 grant for a project called PluriMes. Austin is the Coordinator. The grant is specifically targeted at degenerative diseases of muscle, bone and cartilage. The Project started on 1st February 2014 and will run until February 2018. Jenny Nelder (previously the SCI Coordinator) has been appointed as Project Manager.

Stefano Pluchino Grants



Dr Stefano Pluchino has been awarded three grants : 5-year support from The Bascule Charitable Trust for his project Induced Neural Stem Cell Research and Brain repair.

€€221,606 by the ERC's Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship to Almudena Fuster-Matanzo for the project entitled "WNT3A in Neuroimmune Interactions in Stroke Brain".

£8000 by The Great Britain Sakakawa Foundation as part of their Butterfield Awards. Their project will be based on Human Muse cells for the treatment of Spinal Cord Injury.

SCI News cont'd

Welcome to New Affiliate PIs



Meritxell Huch
Gurdon Institute
University of Cambridge
mh771@cam.ac.uk



Andrew McCaskie
University of Cambridge
awm41@cam.ac.uk

Athena SWAN

The Centre for Stem Cell Research is preparing an application for an Athena SWAN sliver award to recognise and celebrate good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women in STEMM within Higher Education. Preliminary discussions have taken place and a the self-assessment panel is currently being formed.



**Tell us about your
Publications and get your
open access fees paid**

**sci-records@stemcells.cam.ac.uk
or 01223 (7)46792**

New Wellcome Trust Open Access Books

The Wellcome Trust is extending its open access policy to scholarly monographs and book



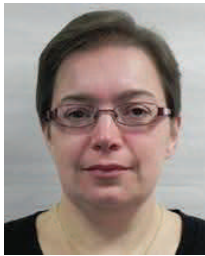
chapters authored or co-authored by Trust grant-holders from October 2014

- Authors will be required to make their work available through PMC Bookshelf and Europe PMC as soon as possible, with a maximum embargo of six months.
- When there is a publishing fee to be covered by the WT, such works must be available without embargo. A CC-BY licence is strongly preferred but non-commercial and/or non-derivatives licences (CC-BY-NC or CC-BY-NC-ND) will be accepted.

If you have any questions or need any help with this, please contact the SCI Records Assistant: sci-records@stemcells.cam.ac.uk or 01223 (7)46792.

Health and Safety

New SCI Principal Assistant



As of 24th February, **Dr Jeanne Estabel** joined as the SCI's new Principal Assistant. Previously Scientific Manager at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Jeanne has been in Cambridge since 2005, after completing her PhD work in developmental biology and neurobiology at the Université Catholique de Lyon (France).

Each month Jeanne will focus on how she is improving our labs and facilities. This month's topic is:

If you have any questions or would like to meet with Jeanne you can contact her on je353@cam.ac.uk.

PPE: What is it?

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is equipment that will protect the scientist against health and safety risks he/she could encounter in a laboratory environment. It can include lab coat, gloves, eye protection, disposable masks, face shield...



For example, lab coats if worn properly protect from chemical splashes which could burn or irritate the skin.

After working many years in different institutes in 2 different countries, I have heard lots of reasons why people aren't wearing their PPE: "I am going in the lab for few minutes", "It is too hot here", "It doesn't fit properly", "Nobody is wearing them so why should I?".

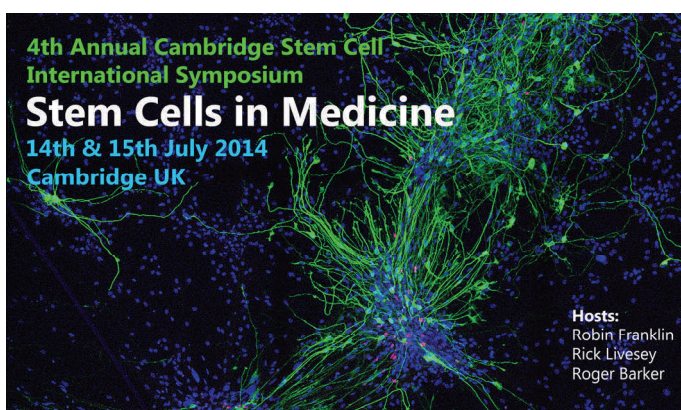
My job is to keep you safe. It only takes seconds for an accident to happen that can change your life. This is particularly true in a scientific environment when you are using flammable, corrosive, toxic and/or irritant substances. So remember **where ever you work, what ever your job, use the right PPE.**

Upcoming Events

Visit the [SCI website](http://www.sci.cam.ac.uk) for details of all our SCI events.

Symposium 2014

Registration is now open for our Institute's annual **symposium**. For more details and to register: www.regonline.co.uk/SCISymposium_2014



Stem Cell Club

An evening seminar series with 3 invited speakers

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. This year's dates are:

15th May 2014

26th June 2014

24th July 2014

18th September 2014

30th October 2014

27th November 2014

If you have a breaking story you would like to present please contact Austin Smith.

Dates for your diary:

4-year Wellcome Trust PhD Student Presentation

Day: 3rd June

SCI PhD Day: 22nd July

Group Leader Candidate Presentations: 29th July

SCI Annual Meeting & ISAB: 15th & 16th December



Demyelination and Remyelination: From Mechanism to Therapy

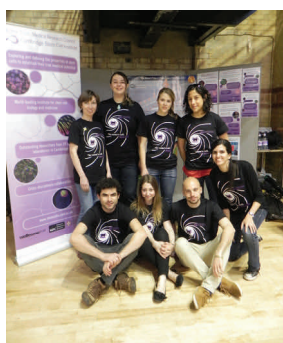
Robin Franklin is organising this meeting on 26th June at the New York Academy of Sciences. For more information please visit their [website](http://www.nyas.org).

Public Engagement

Science Festival 2014

Thank you to all the volunteers and PI's who helped run events at the Science Festival 2014!

The SCI events at the Science Festival were a huge success. Over 300 people attended the Stem Cell Discoveries Drop-in Session run by Rodrigo Santos and our brilliant volunteers. Whilst over 320 people attended talks by Robin Franklin, Kevin Chalut, Roger Barker and Jose Silva. The feedback that we have received so far has been fantastic, with a huge uptake on our tour competition.



Bang Goes the Theory

Rick Livesey took part in the BBC's Bang Goes the Theory episode that aired on Monday the 31st March.

If you missed it then you can watch the episode on BBC iPlayer or the clip of Rick here www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01wd83n.



Open Day for Patients

Roger Barker took part in an Open Day for patients and careers with Parkinson's Disease at the Brain Repair Center at Addenbrookes Hospital.



Cambridge Literary Festival



On Friday 4th April Austin Smith, Bertie Gottgens and Amer Rana took part in "Thinking Aloud 1: Stem Cells". They discussed Stem Cells and their potential and future applications.



Get involved in:

Big Biology Day 2014

We would like the SCI to participate in the Society of Biology's Big Biology Day as part of the Biology Week 2014. This year the event will be on 18/10/14 at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge. **We need volunteers to help with an SCI stand.** Anyone can get involved, it will be a fun-packed rewarding day, using similar activities to the Science Festival (and it looks good on your CV!) **To volunteer contact:** sci-coordinator@stemcells.cam.ac.uk.



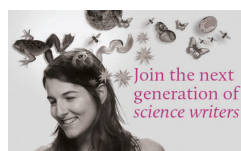
Alumni Festival 2014

For the first time the SCI are going to participate in the University's Alumni Festival. On the 26/09/14 there will be a talk about stem cells and the SCI followed by a tour of the CSCR labs. **If you would like to be involved contact the SCI Coordinator:** sci-coordinator@stemcells.cam.ac.uk

Alumni Festival



2014 Science Writing Competition Open



The SCI would like to encourage members to enter the Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize. This prestigious award is in association

with the 'Guardian' and the 'Observer'. **The closing date for entries is 11 May 2014.** For more information visit the [website](http://www.wellcome-trust.org.uk/science-writing).

Achievements by SCI Students

Graduate School of Life Sciences 2014 Poster & Image Competition.

Fatima Junaid won 1st place for the best Research poster from a 1st year graduate student.

Mahalia Page won 2nd place in the Research image competition.

2014 Keystone Symposium on Stem Cells and Reprogramming

Alessandro Bertero was invited to give a short talk titled "Activin Signaling Controls the Epigenetic Landscape of Human Pluripotent Stem Cells"