

NYSCF

The New York
Stem Cell Foundation

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**LATEST ADVANCES IN STEM CELL RESEARCH TO BE DISCUSSED
AT NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION 6TH ANNUAL
TRANSLATIONAL STEM CELL RESEARCH CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 11-12**

*Sessions Focus on Moving Stem Cell Science Toward Better Treatments
for Major Chronic Diseases, Injuries*

NEW YORK, NY (Oct. 5, 2011) – National and international leaders in translational stem cell research will present their latest research findings on how advances in stem cell science will eventually lead to better treatments for persons suffering from debilitating chronic diseases and injuries at The New York Stem Cell Foundation’s (NYSCF) Sixth Annual Translational Stem Cell Research Conference, October 11-12, at Rockefeller University in Manhattan.

The conference will focus on the advancements researchers are making in using stem cells to better understand major chronic diseases and injuries such as diabetes, heart disease and spinal cord injury, and how that knowledge can eventually lead to more effective treatments and cures.

“This conference offers a forum for the best and brightest minds in the world of regenerative medicine to report their findings, exchange ideas, and discuss how we are moving closer to clinical applications,” said NYSCF CEO Susan L. Solomon.

Highlights of the conference include a keynote address by the recipient of the inaugural \$200,000 **NYSCF-Robertson Prize in Stem Cell Research**, who will be announced on Tuesday evening.

Also, a research advance reported in the October 6 issue of the journal *Nature*, in which a team of NYSCF scientists in collaboration with researchers from Columbia University were able to develop embryonic stem cells containing the DNA of an individual with type 1 diabetes, will be discussed by **Dieter Egli**, PhD, the lead scientist in the study.

The conference opens Tuesday with panels geared to the lay public. ***Road to the Clinic***, a panel moderated by **Lee Rubin**, PhD, Director of Translational Medicine at the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, will bring together leaders from research institutions at academic, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, health care, and venture capital organizations and foundations to discuss what it will take to get stem cell research from lab bench to bedside.

Panel members will include **Scott Johnson**, President of Myelin Repair Foundation; **Robert J. Palay**, JD, CEO of Cellular Dynamics International; **William Sahlman**, PhD, Senior Association Dean for External Relations, Harvard Business School; and **Steve Chang**, Vice President of Research & Development for the New York Stem Cell Foundation.

The Tuesday afternoon panel, *The Future of Regenerative Medicine*, will be moderated by **Ms. Solomon** and will feature leading experts discussing their vision of the future of regenerative medicine and how their institutes will play a role in its changing landscape.

Panelists will include **Mahendra S. Rao**, MD, PhD, Director of the National Institutes of Health Center for Regenerative Medicine; **Craig B. Thompson**, MD, President and CEO of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; **Marc Tessier-Lavigne**, PhD, President, The Rockefeller University; and **Irving L. Weissman**, MD, Director, Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, Stanford University.

The **scientific program** on Wednesday will feature top American and international stem cell researchers in the areas of diabetes, repairing heart and muscles, cancer, blood disease, neurodegeneration and spinal cord injury, and stem cell programming and reprogramming.

Irving Weissman, MD, Director of the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at Stanford University will be the luncheon keynote speaker.

A session on **Diabetes** will feature **Rudolph L. Leibel**, MD, director of the Division of Molecular Genetics in the Department of Pediatrics and co-director of the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center at Columbia University; **Hans Snoeck**, MD, PhD, a clinical hematologist and director of the flow cytometry shared resource facility at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine; **Shuibing Chen**, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Surgery and Biochemistry at Weill Cornell Medical College; and **Pedro Herrera**, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Cell Physiology and Metabolism at the University of Geneva Medical School (Switzerland).

A session on **Cancer and Blood Disease** will feature **Eric Bouhassira**, PhD, Professor of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Director of the Einstein Comprehensive Pluripotent Stem Cell Center; **Shahin Rafii**, MD, Professor of Genetic Medicine and Co-Director of the Ansary Stem Cell Institute at Weill Cornell Medical College; **Viviane Tabar** MD, a neurosurgeon who runs her own laboratory focusing on the biology of stem cells in brain repair and cancer at Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; and **Catriona Jamieson**, MD, PhD, who specializes in myeloproliferative disorders and leukemia at the University of California, San Diego.

A session on **Repairing Heart and Muscles** will feature **Rocky Kass**, PhD, Professor, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons whose research focuses on the structure and function of ion channels expressed in the heart; **Margaret Buckingham**, PhD, Professor at the Pasteur Institute in Paris and Director of Research, whose research

focuses on the stem cells of skeletal muscle; **Deepak Srivastava**, MD, Director of the Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease and Professor at the University of California, San Francisco; and **Michael Rudnicki**, PhD, Senior Scientist and Director of the Regenerative Medicine Program and the Sprott Centre for Stem Cell Research at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute.

A session on **Neurodegeneration and Spinal Cord Injury** will feature **Moses Chao**, PhD, Professor of Cell Biology, Physiology & Neuroscience and Psychiatry at the New York University School of Medicine; **Steven Goldman**, MD, PhD, who specializes on stem and progenitor cell-based treatment and modeling of myelin disorders at the University of Rochester Medical Center; **Paul Tesar**, DPhil, Professor, Department of Genetics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine; and **Clive Svendsen**, PhD, Director of the Cedars-Sinai Regenerative Medicine Institute in Los Angeles.

A session on stem cell **Programming and Reprogramming** will feature **Ihor Lemischka**, PhD, Professor of Developmental and Regenerative Biology and Director of the Black Family Stem Cell Institute at Mount Sinai Medical Center; **Alex Meissner**, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology and a member of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute at Harvard University; **Deiter Egli**, PhD, Senior Research Fellow at The New York Stem Cell Foundation; and **Kevin Eggan**, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine at Harvard University, and Chief Scientific Officer of The New York Stem Cell Foundation.

At the conference The New York Stem Cell Foundation will also announce seven new recipients of the highly regarded **NYSCF – Robertson Investigator awards**, which provide \$1.5 million in individual awards to outstanding early career investigators over a five-year period to expand their own laboratories, train other scientists, and foster cutting edge research.

NYSCF's post-doctoral fellows will present their work in **poster sessions** throughout the conference.

Co-chairs of the conference are: Lee Goldman, MD, MPH, Columbia University; Antonio M. Gotto Jr., MD, DPhil, Weill Cornell Medical College; Douglas A. Melton, PhD, Harvard University; Allen M. Spiegel, MD, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Marc Tessier-Lavigne, PhD, The Rockefeller University; Craig B. Thompson, MD, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Scientific co-chairs are: Moses V. Chao, PhD, Skirball Institute of Biomedicine; Zach W. Hall, PhD, The New York Stem Cell Foundation; Ihor Lemischka, PhD, Mount Sinai School of Medicine; Dan R. Littman MD, PhD, Skirball Institute of Biomedicine.

The Robertson Foundation is the principal sponsor of the conference.

Co-sponsors are: Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Columbia University Medical Center, Helen and Martin Kimmel Center for Stem Cell Biology at New York University School of Medicine, the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and the Tri-Institutional Stem Cell Initiative, which consists of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, The Rockefeller University, and Weill Cornell Medical College.

Corporate supporters for the conference include Pfizer, Merck, Science Translational Medicine, and BioMed Central: Stem Cell Research & Therapy.

The **full conference agenda** is available at www.nyscf.org/events/annual-conference

Registration is complimentary for accredited members of the media who RSVP to dmathismarr@nyscf.org

About The New York Stem Cell Foundation

The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) was founded in 2005 to accelerate cures for debilitating diseases through stem cell research. NYSCF conducts cutting-edge research at its own independent laboratory and provides grants to outstanding investigators at other research institutions. NYSCF also invests in the next generation of stem cell researchers through the NYSCF Fellowship Program and the NYSCF Investigators Program, which support promising early career scientists doing innovative translational stem cell research. More information is available at www.nyscf.org