

UKSCB e-newsletter June 2015

*This quarter the **UKSCB** announces a number of new and exciting developments of interest regarding collaborative projects and publications.*

➤ **UK Stem Cell Bank successful regulatory audit**

The UK Stem Cell Bank had its biennial HTA license renewal inspection on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The inspectors commented on a number of areas of best practice including the due diligence process, production paperwork and the training manual and training process. There were no non-compliances. The final report of this inspection will be published on the HTA website in due course at [www.hta.gov.uk/](http://www.hta.gov.uk/).

➤ **Update on accession of clinical grade cell lines**

To date thirty nine lines have been approved for deposit as EUTCD (clinical grade by the UK Steering Committee, including two lines from Sheffield re-banked from the pre-existing cell lines Shef 3 and Shef 6. With the exception of these recently approved lines, all UK depositors have now signed the UKSCB deposit agreement and fourteen cell lines have completed the UKSCB due diligence process. A further nine lines are under active review. Six lines have been accessioned with a further eight lines due for accessioning in early 2015. Banking of EUTCD grade cell lines is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2015.

➤ **New product coming shortly from the UKSCB: p3 QMefs**

As part of our support to the stem cell community, we will shortly be making available p3 QMef feeder cells to compliment p0 QMefs already supplied by the Bank. Like p0 QMefs there will have been tested for their ability to support the growth of embryonic stem cell lines.

➤ **Cryopreservation workshops**

The UKSCB recently contributed to two workshops on preservation and stability of cell therapies:

- Cell Therapy Catapult- NIBSC workshop on cell therapy stability, 29<sup>th</sup> May: International experts in cell biology and cryobiology along with industry representatives met at NIBSC (London, UK) to address key issues in the preservation and shipment of cell therapies. Aspects discussed included :
  - Scoping the key scientific issues in the process of preservation and recovery
  - Review of new technologies for preservation
  - Storage and shipment of live cell preparations

The group reached a consensus on current issues, identified a number of areas where R&D was needed to be prioritized and concluded that quantified metrics of cell biology were needed in this area. A report has been drafted for publication and the group intends to submit a white paper to funding agencies to present the areas requiring support in future research.

- Innovate-UK cryopreservation workshop at the British Society of Gene and Cell Therapy meeting 11<sup>th</sup> June: The workshop attracted more than 48 participants from academia, healthcare and industry. It showcased successful projects funded by the Technology Strategy Board and stimulated a very active discussion which will be captured to inform the White paper proposed in the CTC-NIBSC workshop.

This newsletter is sent to you from the UK Stem Cell Bank, Blanche Lane, South Mimms, Hertfordshire, EN6 3QG, UK. If you prefer not to receive any further newsletters from the UKSCB, please email us on [enquires@ukstemcellbank.org](mailto:enquires@ukstemcellbank.org) with the subject 'Unsubscribe'

➤ **ISCBI workshop at ISBER meeting**

The UKSCB coordinates the International Stem Cell Banking Initiative (ISCBI) which collaborated with Rosario Isasi of the ISCF Ethics Working Party ([www.stem-cell-forum.net/](http://www.stem-cell-forum.net/)) to organise a workshop on International Stem Cell Banking at the Annual scientific meeting of the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER) in Phoenix, Arizona, USA, 4<sup>th</sup> May. Speakers included a number of ISCBI contributors (M Firpo, R Isasi, G Lomax and T Ludwig) and further coordination with ISBER is planned. Attached below is a copy of the ISCBI newsletter.



ISCBI-EWP  
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➤ **Harvard training course**

The Harvard Stem Cell Institute and the UK Stem Cell Bank continued their training collaboration by co-hosting a 3-day training course in Boston, on Human iPSC derivation and culture, June 3rd to 5th. Twelve participants from diverse scientific backgrounds attended the course which covered practical training in a range of reprogramming technologies and cell culture systems. The wet-lab sessions were complemented by a series of lectures delivered by tutors, academics and commercial groups to consolidate the knowledge base. Feedback from the participants revealed that the course was a success and the course will be run again in the UK in 2016.

 **UK Stem Cell Bank**  
HSCI  
HARVARD STEM CELL  
INSTITUTE

➤ **UKSCB attendance at ISSCR**

Are you ready for the great stem cell science at ISSCR 2015? If you are attending, we'd love you to stop by and visit us at **Booth B13:11**. You can learn about our new and existing research collaborations this year and get update on the accession of clinical grade cell lines.

**ISSCR 2015**  
ANNUAL MEETING  
**STOCKHOLM | SWEDEN**

**24-27 JUNE**  
Stockholmsmässan