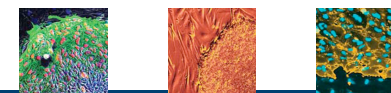


# Presidents Report

**Alan Trounson**

**December 2008**

**Agenda Item #6**



# New Developments in Stem Cells



## **Induction of pluripotent stem cells from primary human fibroblasts with only Oct4 and Sox2.**

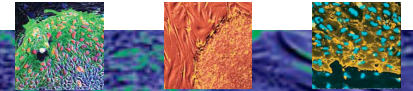
*Huangfu et al, Melton Lab Harvard SCC Nature Biotech, Nov 2008*

Showed valproic acid (VPA), a histone deacetylase inhibitor, enables the derivation of human iPS cells without the need for Klf4 and c-Myc oncogenes.

## **Induced pluripotent stem cells generated without viral integration.**

*Stadfeld et al, Hochedlinger Lab Mass Gen Science, Nov 2008*

Showed mouse and human cells can be reprogrammed to iPS cells using nonintegrating adenoviruses transiently expressing Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, and c-Myc genes.



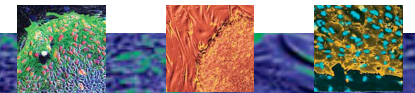
# New Developments in Stem Cells



## Generation of mouse induced pluripotent stem cells without viral vectors

*Okita et al, Yamanaka Lab, Kyoto. Science, Nov 2008*

Possible to generate mouse iPS cells from embryonic fibroblasts without viral vectors by using repeated transfection of somatic cells with two expression plasmids, one containing the complementary DNAs (cDNAs) of Oct3/4, Sox2, and Klf4 and the other containing the c-Myc cDNA. This resulted in iPS cells without any evidence of plasmid integration.



# New Developments in Stem Cells



## Clinical transplantation of a tissue-engineered airway

*Macchiarani et al, The Lancet Nov 2008*

A 30 yr old patient with severe airway stenosis due to tuberculous infiltration was transplanted a decellularized cadaveric tracheal implant that had been seeded with the patient's own chondrocytes (of bone marrow MSC origin) and airway epithelial cells biopsied from the patient's own airways.

The graft has provided the patient with a functional trachea to the lung lobe with the stenosis, > 2 months post-operation. There were no signs of rejection and the patient has much improved lung capacity. This has implications for bioengineering tissues.



# New Developments in Stem Cells

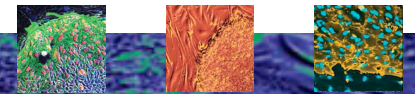


## **Micro RNAs to Nanog, Oct4 and Sox2 coding regions modulate embryonic stem cell differentiation**

*Tay et al, Singapore Nature 445:1124-8 Oct 2008*

miRNAs direct mRNA degradation or disrupt mRNA translation in a sequence dependent manner. Because Nanog, Oct4 and Sox2 have many amino acid coding sequence-locating miRNA targets (some of which are species specific).

This is a new model where miRNAs exercise control over mRNAs through targets that can reside beyond the 3' untranslated regions of genes critical for pluripotency and differentiation.



# New Developments in Stem Cells



## **Derivation and characterization of canine embryonic stem cell lines with in vitro and in vivo differentiation potential.**

*Vaags et al, Uni Toronto Stem Cells Nov 2008*

First report of dog ESCs that form teratomas with all 3 primary germ lineages

## **Generation of induced pluripotential stem cells from adult Rhesus monkey fibroblasts.**

*Liu et al, Peking Univ. Cell Stem Cell 3: 587-590 Dec 2008*

Produced monkey iPS cells by viral mediated Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc transduction.



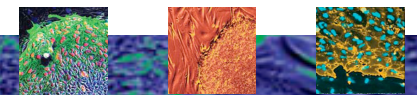
# New Developments in Stem Cells



**A pluripotency and self-renewal program controls the expansion of genetically unstable cancer stem cells in pluripotent stem cell derived tumors.**

*Conway et al, A Clark's Lab USC, Stem Cells Oct 2, 2008*

Using mouse EGCs from testicular teratomas, they showed that acquisition of metastatic behavior is activated in a cellular background of genetic instability – non-clonal genomic rearrangements – and the inherent ability to self renew (treatment with the inhibitor for self renewal – RA – prevented tumor formation) in cancer stem cell populations derived from EGCs.



# Personnel

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**Lila Collins, Ph.D.**  
**Science Officer (Geron)**

**Stephanie Titus**  
**Grants Management Specialist (UCSF)**

**Todd Dubincoff, Ph.D.**  
**Science Writer/Multi-Media Editor**  
**(Journal of Visual Experimentation)**

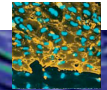




# President's Priorities



- **Little Hoover Commission**
- **2008 Strategic Plan Revisions**
- **Grantium Computerized Grant Management System**
- **Loan Program Implementation Plan**
- **Visits with CIRM Funded Institutions**
- **Annual Staff Appraisals**
- **Modeling for CIRM Productivity**



# International Agreements



## Japan

Dr Kitazawa President JST  
Dr Shinya Yamanaka

## Spain

Cristina Garmendia Mendizabal  
Minister Science & Innovation



# Update on International & National Linkages



## Signed MOUs

**Canadian Cancer Stem Cell Consortium**

**Victoria Government (Australia)**

**UK/Medical Research Council (MRC)**

**Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**

**Japan Science and Technology (JST)**

**Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation**

## Initiated Talks

**Alliance for Gene Therapy**

**Bi-National Science Foundation - Israel**

**Germany**

**The Netherlands**

**Sweden**



# Grant Reviews

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- **COMPLETED GRANT REVIEWS**
  - Tools & Technologies
  - Training Grants II (CIRM Scholars)
  - Bridges to Stem Cell Research



# Upcoming Grant Review



## Early Translational Research

- **71 Applications**
- **20 For Profits/ 51 Not for Profits**
- **37 Development Candidates**
- **34 Bottlenecks**
- **9 International Collaborations**
  - **GWG Review – February 09**
  - **ICOC Approval – April 09**



# Upcoming RFAs



- **Basic Research Initiative I**
  - RFA Released – December 08
  - GWG Review – June 09
  - ICOC Approval – August 09
  
- **Disease Team Research Awards**
  - RFA Released - February 08
  - GWG Review - Sept 09
  - ICOC Approval - Fall 09



# Cell Production – GMP Workshop

Nov 3, 2008 1 of 2



- **Interactive program of academic, industry, regulatory experts**
- **Establish a consortium network of present GMP organizations to advise on GMP priorities**
- **Research needs for GMP identified**
- **CIRM should not own or operate GMP facilities**
- **Optimizing CIRM grantee access to GMP**
  - Capacity analysis ongoing to Phase III
  - Options for contract models reviewed
  - Grants budget adjustments as needed



# Cell Production – GMP Workshop

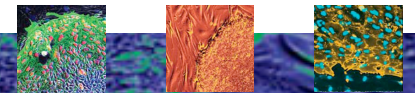
2 of 2



**CIRM should fund research in this area, as no other research dollars are available for optimizing processes, especially for hESC therapies.**

- undergraduate level Bridges-type program focused on GMP to build work force
- methods to expand hESC in suspension
- qualification and optimization of culture reagents to meet safety requirements
- methods to scale-up AND reduce costs
- derivation of hESC/iPS lines under GMP conditions
- methods for product development in the context of academic labs

**Provide funding for scale-up from lab to GMP compliant production and for GMP production**





# Proposed Workshops

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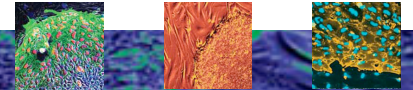
- **UK-MRC/CIRM – Jan 09 (tentative)**
- **Immunology Tools – Feb 09**
- **Stem Cells, Autism and Mental Health**
- **Japan/CIRM**



# Strategic Plan Update



- **Revision of the 2006 Strategic Plan**
- **Increased emphasis on translational and clinical research**
- **Repeating Basic, Translational, Disease Teams and Training Grant RFAs as core components**
  - **Supplemented with specific foci, e.g., Immunology Tolerance; Tools & Technologies**
- **Increased linkages with the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries**
- **Increase global and national collaborations to enhance delivery of outcomes**
- **Increase education and public understanding of regenerative medicine based on stem cell research**



# GRANTIUM UPDATE

**John Robson**

**December 2008**



# Grantium Implementation Update



## CIRM Grant Activity

	2005/6	2008/9 (estimate)
Applications received	26	≈ 400
Grants awarded	16	≈ 120
Grants active	16	≈ 250
Total grant \$	\$38.5M	≈ \$760



# Grantium Implementation Update



## Finalized contract – April, 2008

- Significant activities:
  - Finalizing workflow processes
  - Moving existing (legacy data) to Grantium
  - Installing initial, operational software
  - Conducting user acceptance tests
- Current Strategy:
  - Select Roll-out Project Manager: 6-9 months
  - Engage replacement Director for Grants Management Systems:
    - 1 year
  - Recruit new Director of Information Technology
  - Recruit Configuration Specialist to run Grantium
- Scheduled First RFA to run in Grantium – August, 2009

