



08 June 2004

EuroStemCell Website Launch

EuroStemCell launched their website (www.eurostemcell.org) this week marking the start of the project's commitment to public engagement. *EuroStemCell* is an EU funded project that aims to speed the delivery of stem cell technologies to the clinic by bringing together researchers from the best stem cell laboratories in Europe. A crucial part of the project involves raising awareness of the *EuroStemCell* research programme and engaging with the public on the various issues surrounding stem cell research.

The *EuroStemCell* website will, therefore, provide information on the participating scientists and institutes, the research projects, clinical applications, latest news and publications, and career and training opportunities within the consortium. The website will also play a key role in implementing the *EuroStemCell* Outreach Package, which aims to explore the ethical, legal and societal issues surrounding stem cell research and encourage dialogue between *EuroStemCell* scientists, the public, patient groups, clinicians, and policy makers.

To find out more information about *EuroStemCell* and its initiatives please visit www.eurostemcell.org

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Note to Editors:

European Funding

EuroStemCell is funded through the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme and more specifically the priority on Life Sciences, Genomics, and Biotechnology for Health, which aims to advance medicine and quality of life for European citizens. The Commission is providing €11.9 million support to the *EuroStemCell* Project during its four year duration. The 14 participants are from Scotland, England, Sweden, France, Denmark, Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. They comprise universities, research institutes and biotechnology companies. The project was selected after a call for proposals and very positive evaluation by independent experts.

European Union's Sixth Framework Programme (FP6). The Framework Programme is the main European instrument for research funding in Europe. At the Lisbon summit in March 2000, EU governments called for a better use of European research efforts through the creation of an internal market for science and technology – a 'European Research Area'. FP6 is the financial instrument to help make ERA a reality.

Project Co-ordination. The *EuroStemCell* project is co-ordinated from the Institute for Stem Cell Research, University of Edinburgh.

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The Institute for Stem Cell Research, University of Edinburgh, is an interdisciplinary research institute focussed on stem cell biology. Building an international reputation in embryonic stem (ES) cell research they have established a co-ordinated programme of research into molecular, cellular and developmental biology of mammalian stem cells. The Institute has recently been awarded MRC funding to develop a new centre of excellence in stem cell biology (www.iscr.ed.ac.uk).

Other Participating Institutes (Lead Scientists)

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