



AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

Australian and New Zealand stem cell scientists gathered to establish a regional stem cell society during the International Society for Stem Cell Research Conference, held in Cairns 2007. Around 40 stem cell scientists from AgResearch, University of Auckland, University of Melbourne, MIMR, MISCL, PeterMac, ASCC, Stem Cell Sciences, Victor Chang Institute, University of New South Wales St, Vincent's Hospital, Telethon Institute, WA Institute of Medical Research, University of Queensland, Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology voted overwhelmingly in favour.

A steering committee of representative scientists throughout Australia and New Zealand have met twice, to consolidate the aims and rules of the society. The society will be officially formed by December 2007.

The Society aims to “promote the discipline of stem cell biology and therapies in Australasia, to promote education and research and to disseminate scientific information.”

An Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research will establish a stem cell research network in Australia and New Zealand, with interaction within the Asia Pacific Region and support and provide education about stem cells to research scientists and the general public. The aim would be that the society organise or promote meetings, training workshops, networking, education, facilitating and mentoring of junior scientists.

Membership of the society will be open to professionals (regular members) or students working in a stem cell related field. Anyone else interested in stem cell research is welcome as associate members. Thus full membership is open to scientists, clinicians, ethicists and others who work in a stem cell area.

The ASSCR will be governed by an elected committee made up of a President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Communication Officer and Vice-President as well as five other members, including student(s) representatives. Elections will be held each year or every two years at the ASSCR annual general meeting. The committee will meet 3 times a year.

Subscription to the ASSCR will be \$85 for full membership and \$40 for student members and fees due August 1st of each year.

For more information: <http://myresearchspace.grs.uwa.edu.au/blogs/asscr/>

