



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

The
Research
Office.



All are welcome to attend a Flagship Interdisciplinary Research Forum

“Ethical & Legal Challenges to Stem Cell Research”

Friday 7th December 2007 Firth Hall
Start 10.00 am, lunch 13.00pm

Stem cell research has enormous scientific and clinical potential but is surrounded by controversy and ethical debate amongst scientists, policy and law makers, lobbyists and the media. As International and domestic law struggles to keep pace with scientific discovery, the proliferation of UK, European and international ethical regulations and legal controls have uncertain implications for international research collaborations.

The purpose of this forum is to explore the impact of the emerging ethical and legal regulatory controls on research from an interdisciplinary perspective. It will bring together world-leading stem-cell scientists, ethicists and lawyers who are based at the University of Sheffield along with external guest speakers. The forum aims to:

- facilitate dialogue amongst research teams within different departments and disciplines;
- develop and/or strengthen collaborative research networks; and
- identify research synergies and potential overarching interdisciplinary research themes.

PROGRAMME

Professor Aurora Plomer, Director of Sheffield Institute for Biotechnology Law and Ethics (SIBLE) and author of the EU Report, 'Stem Cell Patents: European Law and Ethics', (2006), will provide the ethical and legal context. Leading scientists from the University will consider possible hurdles, bottlenecks and uncertainties in their own areas, along with guest speaker Professor Brian Salter from Kings College London. Dr Ben Sykes, from the UK Stem Cell Network will outline the remit and current activities of the Network and how this applies to researchers at the University of Sheffield. There will be an audience/panel discussion on how collaborating internally can advance this multidisciplinary area and strengthen the University of Sheffield's position as a world-leading centre in stem cell related work. Research posters and lunch provide a networking opportunity.

Time	Item	Lead
10.00	Welcome and Introduction	
10.05	The changing landscape of EU and UK Stem Cell Law	Prof Aurora Plomer , Director of Sheffield Institute for Biotechnology Law and Ethics (SIBLE)
10.20	Experience of Undertaking Stem Cell Research in collaboration with international partners, including all EU member states	Prof Peter Andrews , Centre for Stem Cell Biology and Lead ESTOOLS
10.35	Stem Cell Research and Developmental Biology – Emerging Issues	Prof Marysia Placzek , Professor of Developmental Neurobiology
10.50	'Speculative innovation in stem cell science: China, India and the geopolitics of uncertain futures'.	Prof Brian Salter , Director of Bio-politics Research Group, Kings College London
11.05	Break	
11.25	Stem Cell Research and Tissue Engineering	Prof Sheila MacNeil , Professor of Tissue Engineering
11.40	Stem Cell Research in Neuroscience and its Clinical Application	Prof Pam Shaw , Clinician and Head of the Section of Neuroscience, Medical School
11.55	Science, Genetics & Ethics	Dr Mark Taylor , School of Law
12.10	Introduction to the UK Stem Cell Network	Ben Sykes , UK Stem Cell Network
12.20	All audience Q&A	Moderated by Prof Ian Peake , Divisional Director of Research (Medicine) and School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
12.50	Summary of emerging issues	Prof Aurora Plomer , Director of Sheffield Institute for Biotechnology Law and Ethics (SIBLE)
13.00	LUNCH Posters and Networking	All

To register: please log into to <http://www.shef.ac.uk/researchoffice/event/stemcellethics.html>