



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LIFE SCIENCE COMMUNITY TO GATHER  
FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL STEM CELL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM OCT. 19**

*One year, 29 grants and \$38 million dollars in funding later, San Diego Consortium for Regenerative Medicine invites diverse panel to discuss progress in stem cell research*

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Consortium for Regenerative Medicine (SDCRM) in partnership with CONNECT, The Science Network, BIOCUM, and lead sponsor Invitrogen, will host the second annual Stem Cell Meeting on the Mesa symposium this Friday, Oct. 19 at the Salk Institute in La Jolla.

The La Jolla Torrey Pines Mesa region is a powerhouse of stem cell research, leading California in grants and funding from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). Since late last year, the cluster of institutions on the Mesa has collectively been awarded 29 grants totaling nearly \$38 million for the purpose of conducting life-saving work in several key areas of stem cell research.

“The symposium draws together San Diego pioneers responsible for advancing this very promising research towards discovering cures for millions of people suffering from debilitating diseases or injuries,” said Duane Roth, Board Member of the Independent Citizen’s Oversight Committee, CIRM, and CEO of CONNECT.

The CIRM, established in response to the passage of Proposition 71, otherwise known as the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative, is the largest source of funding for human embryonic stem cell research in the world. The CIRM creates grants and provides loans for research, facilities, staffing and other vital research opportunities.

Established in March 2006, the SDCRM is comprised of UC San Diego, The Burnham Institute for Medical Research, Salk Institute for Biological Studies and The Scripps Research Institute. The consortium marshals the intellectual resources of these four world leaders in life sciences research, bringing scientists from each institution together to conduct joint research and training programs in stem cell research, all of which have

helped to transform the region into a globally-recognized epicenter for life-saving research.

This invitation-only symposium attracts scientists, life sciences business executives, and government officials for the purpose of sharing ideas and discussing the imminent scientific, ethical, and business challenges facing stem cell research today.

Panel topics and their respective chairs include Recent Scientific Progress and Ideas, Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte, Salk Institute for Biological Studies; New Methods and Advances in Technology, Evan Snyder, Burnham Institute of Medical Research; and The Business of Stem Cells and Start-Ups, Joydeep Goswami and Invitrogen.

Stem cell researchers seek to discover cures for a multitude of illnesses such as heart disease, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Since human embryonic stem cells have the potential to mutate into virtually any type of cell in the human body researchers anticipate being able to use them to grow replacements for damaged organs or tissue.

“The scientific and medical opportunities provided by stem cell research are unprecedented and have the potential to revolutionize research that seeks to find improved treatments for the many terrible diseases for which we currently lack adequate therapies,” said Lawrence Goldstein, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Cellular & Molecular Medicine at the UCSD School of Medicine.

Sponsors that make this cutting-edge symposium possible include Invitrogen, Agilent Laboratories, Cytori Therapeutics, International Stem Cell Corporation, Latham & Watkins LLP, Molecular Diagnostic Services, Novocell Incorporated, Pfizer, Rebecca & John Moores, the Waitt Family Foundation, and L7 Creative Communications.

The symposium will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude with a cocktail reception at 4:45 p.m. at the Frederic de Hoffmann Auditorium in the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, 10010 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla Calif. For more information, please visit [www.CONNECT.org](http://www.CONNECT.org)

### ***About CONNECT***

CONNECT is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining the growth of innovative technology and life science businesses in San Diego. Since 1985, CONNECT has assisted in the formation and development of over 1,200 companies and is widely regarded as the nation's most successful regional program linking inventors and entrepreneurs with the resources they need for success. Its programs include: Springboard, Venture Round Table, Frontiers in Science and Technology, FrameWorks, and Connect with CONNECT; affiliate programs with The Center for Commercialization of Advanced Technology (CCAT), Tech Coast Angels (TCA), and MIT Enterprise Forum (MITEF); and its awards and recognition programs, Hall of Fame, and The Most Innovative Products (MIP) Awards.

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