



13 February 2019

5215 Old Orchard Rd, Suite 270
Skokie, IL 60077 USA
Tel: +1-224-592-5700
Fax: +1-224-365-0004
isscr@isscr.org
www.isscr.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**President**

Douglas A. Melton
Cambridge, MA USA

President Elect

Deepak Srivastava
San Francisco, CA USA

Vice President

Christine L. Mummery
Leiden, Netherlands

Clerk

Amander T. Clark
Los Angeles, CA USA

Treasurer

Arnold R. Kriegstein
San Francisco, CA, USA

Immediate Past President

Hans C. Clevers
Utrecht, Netherlands

Directors

Roger A. Barker
Cambridge, UK

Marianne E. Bronner
Pasadena, CA USA

Fiona Doetsch
Basel, Switzerland

Valentina Greco
New Haven, CT USA

Konrad Hochedlinger
Boston, MA USA

Jane Lebkowski
Portola Valley, CA USA

Ruth Lehmann
New York, NY USA

Urban Lendahl
Stockholm, Sweden

Haifan Lin
New Haven, CT USA

Melissa Little
Parkville, VIC Australia

Charles E. Murry
Seattle, WA USA

Martin Pera
Bar Harbor, ME USA

Hans Schöler
Munster, Germany

Takanori Takebe
Yokohama, Japan

Joanna Wysocka
Stanford, CA USA

Sally Temple, Ex Officio
Rensselaer, NY USA

Leonard I. Zon, Ex Officio
Boston, MA USA

Nancy Witty
Chief Executive Officer

The Honourable Bill Morneau
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Canada

Dear Minister Morneau:

On behalf of the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), I write to voice our support for the collaborative research networks previously supported through the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program. The ISSCR is the leading professional organization of stem cell scientists and represents more than 4,000 members in Canada and around the world. Our members are scientists, clinicians, ethicists and educators dedicated to the responsible advancement of stem cell research and its translation to the clinic. We encourage Canada to continue supporting collaborative research networks that leverage the expertise from academic researchers, industry, and non-profits to advance breakthrough science.

Canada's investment in three stem cell research networks (Stem Cell Network, Regenerative Medicine and Cell Therapy Network, and Centre for the Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine) advanced the field of regenerative medicine and transformed Canada into a global leader. The networks funded basic research to advance understanding of human physiology, trained thousands of young scientists, funded hundreds of research groups, and developed Canada's cell manufacturing capacity.

While we appreciate Canada's commitment to funding fast-breaking research with the [New Frontiers in Research Fund](#), we are concerned that Canada's research enterprise will lose its competitive edge without the high-quality research collaborations financed previously through the NCE program. Therefore, we urge you to including a funding for collaborative research networks in the budget for 2019.

Thank you for considering our recommendations as you finalize Canada's budget for 2019. If the ISSCR can clarify any of these views or be of assistance, please contact Eric Anthony, ISSCR's Director of Policy at eanthony@isscr.org.

Sincerely,

Douglas A. Melton, PhD
President, ISSCR
Xander University Professor, Harvard University
Co-Director, Harvard Stem Cell Institute