



In association with:  INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

Experts to debate “The Real Deal on Stem Cell Therapies” at free event in Vancouver

Tuesday, June 17 (Toronto and Ottawa) – Stem cells were first identified by Canadian doctors James Till and Ernest McCulloch in the 1960s. Their ground-breaking research laid the foundation for an entire field of study, the fruits of which have been expected to deliver cures for dozens of diseases and conditions. Over half a century later, this promise of stem cells and regenerative medicine research still eludes us. Find out why when experts discuss “The Real Deal on Stem Cell Therapies” at a free public symposium on June 17, 2014.

The Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) and the Stem Cell Network, in collaboration with the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR), have assembled a group of experts to look at the research, regulatory, advocacy and media forces that shape our perceptions about stem cell therapies and try to determine why the promise of stem cells has yet to be reached. The event will also premiere the latest StemCellShorts video, an award-winning animated series that presents basic concepts about stem cells for general audiences. The event is being held at Science World in Vancouver.

“The public has a fascination with stem cells and regenerative medicine because of the potential they hold to cure diseases and regenerate failing body parts, but I suspect there is frustration around access, regulation and the slow pace of bringing products to the market,” says Timothy Caulfield, Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy at the University of Alberta and one of the event’s speakers. “I’m expecting a lively discussion and some challenging questions from the public when we take on this topic.”

“The Real Deal on Stem Cell Therapies” is free to attend, but RSVPs are appreciated at eventbrite.com

Moderator:

Pamela Fayerman, Medical/Health Issues reporter for the *Vancouver Sun*,

The panelists:

Greg Bonfiglio, Founder and Managing Partner of Proteus, LLC – an investment and advisory firm focused solely on regenerative medicine

Timothy Caulfield, author of *The Cure for Everything*

Kelly McNagny, PhD, Professor in the UBC Department of Medical Genetics and stem cell researcher

Jennifer Molson, an MS patient who participated in a stem cell therapy trial

The details:

June 17, 2014

7-8:30 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.)

OmniMax Theatre, Science World, 1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver

About the Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM)

CCRM, a Canadian not-for-profit organization funded by the Government of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence program and six academic partners, supports the development of technologies that accelerate the commercialization of stem cell- and biomaterials-based technologies and therapies. A network of academics, industry and entrepreneurs, CCRM aims to translate scientific discoveries into marketable products for patients. CCRM launched in Toronto's Discovery District on June 14, 2011. CCRM is hosted by the University of Toronto. www.ccrm.ca

About the Stem Cell Network

The Stem Cell Network, established in 2001, brings together more than 100 leading scientists, clinicians, engineers, and ethicists from universities and hospitals across Canada. The Network supports cutting-edge projects that translate research discoveries into new and better treatments for millions of patients in Canada and around the world. Hosted by the University of Ottawa, the Stem Cell Network is one of Canada's Networks of Centres of Excellence funded through Industry Canada and its three granting councils. www.stemcellnetwork.ca

About the International Society for Stem Cell Research

The International Society for Stem Cell Research is an independent, nonprofit membership organization established to promote and foster the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas relating to stem cells, to encourage the general field of research involving stem cells and to promote professional and public education in all areas of stem cell research and application. www.isscr.org

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