



CSCC ANNOUNCES TWO NEW INITIATIVES

The Cancer Stem Cell Consortium (CSCC) is pleased to announce the launch of two new initiatives for 2011-2012.

C4Resource

The first initiative is the Canada-California Collaborative Cancer Stem Cell Resource and Technology Platform Network (or C4Resource). A key component of the CSCC strategic plan is the establishment of a network of technology and resource platforms across Canada and California, which would establish, or increase access to, important stem cell resources and technologies. To advance this initiative a group of scientists developed a proposal in 2009 describing the resources and technologies needed by the cancer stem cell research community. Consultations in the summer of 2010 confirmed the community's interest in and need for access to these resources and technologies through a coordinated mechanism.

The first step to launching this initiative will be a workshop to be held in the spring of 2011. The main objectives of the workshop will be to assess the needs of the cancer stem cell research community, determine what is currently available, identify the gaps and develop an implementation plan, including identification of funding sources. A Committee is currently being struck to organize the workshop. As the plans progress details of the workshop will be made available on the CSCC website at:

www.cancerstemcellconsortium.ca.

Collaborative Funding Partner Program with CIRM

The second initiative is a Collaborative Funding Partner Program with the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) through CIRM's RFA 10-05: Disease Team Therapy Development Research Awards. The purpose of this collaborative initiative is to support teams co-led by Canadian and Californian Principal Investigators in moving cancer stem cell based therapies toward the clinic.

The RFA 10-05 will support both a Planning Award (Part I) and a Research Award (Part II), each of which will undergo an application, review and approval process. A Letter of Intent to submit an application must be registered with CIRM by the Californian team members by **January 26, 2011**. Canadians who plan to participate in this RFA with a Californian collaborator must inform the CSCC at the Letter of Intent stage in order for their eligibility to be assessed (see below for contact details). For details of the CIRM Disease Team Therapy Development Research Award RFA 10-05 please go to http://www.cirm.ca.gov/RFA_10-05.

Under this RFA 10-05, the CSCC intends to commit up to CDN\$11 million to support the Canadian component of approved Part II Research Awards, with funds provided by the

Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, Genome Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Additional funds will be sought from other Canadian funding agencies and organizations. Projects will be funded for up to four (4) years conditional upon CIRM providing funding to support the Californian component. Canadian and Californian applicants must complete both the CIRM requirements and any additional requirements put forth by the CSCC. Any new announcements in connection with this funding opportunity will be made available on the CSCC website at: www.cancerstemcellconsortium.ca.

As the CSCC develops its research program it is guided by the CSCC Scientific Strategic Plan (<http://www.cancerstemcellconsortium.com/index.php?page=strategic-plan>). The Canadian scientific community will be kept informed of additional opportunities for funding as they are developed.

Contact

For further information about these initiatives and to inform the CSCC of plans to participate in the Collaborative Funding Program with CIRM contact:

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About the Cancer Stem Cell Consortium (CSCC) The Cancer Stem Cell Consortium is a not-for-profit corporation that was incorporated in 2007 to coordinate an international strategy for cancer stem cell research and related translational activities. The strategy will allow the biomedical community to move quickly and effectively from discoveries to application in the clinic; establish partnerships among organizations from Canada, California and other jurisdictions to accelerate and synergize research and translation opportunities related to cancer stem cells; and secure investments from governments, private foundations and the private sector for sustained and stable research funding. Current Consortium members include: Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Genome Canada, Michael Smith Foundation for Medical Research, National Research Council of Canada, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) and the Stem Cell Network.