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SUE & BILL GROSS
STEM CELL RESEARCH CENTER
 UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA • IRVINE

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Researchers at the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center believe

January 2015

From the Director's Desk



GROWING EXCITEMENT

As the holidays are filled with celebrations, one might expect it to be quiet at Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center. However, Gross Hall was humming with activity through the holiday season. While our faculty enjoyed the season with loved ones, they also continued their research. I stopped at Gross Hall several times during the holidays and it was always buzzing – researchers hard at work. There are two reasons why work does not halt. The first reason is that when we became biologists, we accepted that our personal clocks would be ruled by the biological rhythms of the cells we study. One simply cannot neglect living cells because it is a holiday, as they need regular and scheduled care. Secondly, our work is SO exciting! Our faculty and staff understand that it is a privilege to work at Gross Hall and we want to continue on the path of discovery.

stem cells offer hope to treat a host of conditions from cancer to stroke and from age related blindness to diabetes. They are dedicating their lives to make it happen. Your involvement is vital to their success.

Your Gift Can Help Us Go Further Faster ~ Thanks for Your Support!

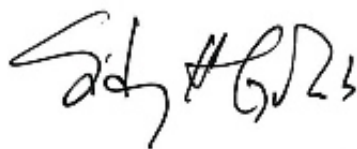
Amidst the work, we took time for fun together. The Stem Cell Research Center holiday party was a joyous affair, filled with good cheer among friends and colleagues. The event featured our annual dessert competition with winning tasty confections in the shapes of cells and even scientific equipment!

The excitement is also growing as we approach the beginning of the UCLA-UCI CIRM Alpha Stem Cell Clinic, as funding is expected to begin in April. UCLA's lead trial headed by Dr. Don Kohn is an exciting study utilizing stem cells to treat children with SCID (Severe Combined Immune Deficiency, sometimes called "boy in the bubble disease" for the extraordinary actions required to keep these children alive.) The lead program in the UCI portion of this collaboration includes Dr. Henry Klassen's Retinitis Pigmentosa study. His proposed stem cell trial to treat this blinding disease of young adults is currently undergoing regulatory review at UCI and the FDA and we look forward to seeing patients soon.

Also, we had a successful Stem Cells Offer Hope Society launch. Because of the support of Society donors and community friends, we will be offering two new research "seed grants" to encourage innovative stem cell studies. We are deeply grateful for these contributions and thrilled to test our original and exciting ideas. I encourage you to visit stemcell.uci.edu to learn more about our Stem Cells Offer Hope Society and how joining gives you an opportunity to discover first-hand how our pioneering research is changing lives.

Mark your calendars for May 7, 2015, as we host the third annual Stem Cells Offer Hope *Bold Expressions* event. You will not want miss this evening of scientific discussions centered around spectacular photographs that capture stem cell science. Join us in learning, enjoying and participating in our silent auction, purchasing pieces of stem cell art to display in your home or office.

And once again, please visit us for one of our upcoming Stem Cell Research Center tours and events. You too will feel the excitement!



Sidney H. Golub, PhD

RESEARCH NEWS

A cure for Lou Gehrig's disease is sought in tiny cells, big data



Funded by an \$8 million federal grant awarded last month, UC Irvine researchers, are leading a team of six institutions studying Lou Gehrig's disease using stem cells generated through this reprogramming method.

The UCI-based center will be called NeuroLINCS and will be run by Leslie M. Thompson, PhD, who is affiliated with the Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center and UCI MIND.

The cells are known as induced pluripotent stem, or iPS, cells. Researchers involved in the NeuroLINCS program said they might be key to learning why Lou Gehrig's disease strikes patients who did not inherit the neurological condition, and aid in discovering new drug treatments for it.

[Read more here](#)

UCI team develops test to rapidly diagnose bloodstream infection



New technology can detect bacterial invaders with unprecedented speed, sensitivity

The UCI team, led by Weian Zhao, assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences, developed a new technology called Integrated Comprehensive Droplet Digital Detection. In as little as 90 minutes, IC 3D can detect bacteria in milliliters of blood with single-cell sensitivity; no cell culture is needed.

We are extremely excited about this technology because it addresses a long-standing unmet medical need in the field,” Zhao said. “As a platform technology, it may have many applications in detecting extremely low-abundance biomarkers in other areas, such as cancers, HIV and, most notably, Ebola.”

[Read More Here](#)

CIRM Alpha Clinic awardee institutions meet



CIRM (California Institute for Regenerative Medicine) Alpha Clinic awardee institutions met in the Edward O. Thorp Conference Center at UCI's Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center on December 16, 2014 to establish a coordinated information exchange process among Alpha Clinic sites and CIRM.

UCI participants included Dr. Sid Golub, Director; Dr. Steve Cramer, Principal Investigator of the UCLA-UCI consortium; Dr. Aileen Anderson, Associate Director and Dr. Randal Berg, Chief Administrative Officer. The meeting featured presentations from the three awardee programs on plans and progress. Representatives proved anxious to utilize this network to promote the clinical deployment of stem cells, as well as opportunities for shared problem solving and analysis of results. As these programs continue to meet regularly, this network will ease the expansion of a successful trial into nearby and closely linked programs.

CIRM Alpha Clinic award institutions include the UCLA-UCI consortium, a consortium of San Diego area organizations coordinated by UCSD and City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, CA.

[Read more about CIRM and the Alpha Clinics here](#)

New Technology For Stroke Survivors



"It's a musical game where you have notes coming at you, demanding you to move every couple of seconds," says David Reinkensmeyer, PhD, Professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology at UC Irvine and the lead researcher of this project.

The glove, which is FDA-approved and has been tested and used in the iMove Lab at Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center, has sensors that track a user's hand movements, mimicking pincer and pinch grips. These movements are key to regaining neurological function in the hand after a stroke.

[Watch the CBS interview and read more here](#)

GET INVOLVED

Stem Cells Offer Hope Society

The Stem Cells Offer Hope Society (SCOHS) is a newly formed annual giving society founded on the belief that stem cells offer hope to treat a host of debilitating diseases and conditions. Annual participation in the society allows you to become personally involved in our quest to improve the lives of so many suffering from disease or injury.

Your gift to SCOHS no matter the size will enable us to:

- Conduct early stage research
- Advance critical research in areas such as diabetes, cancer, eye disease and more
- Continue our vital collaboration with researchers across the globe

You can be a part of this hope and champion progress as we strive to fulfill the promise of stem cells. For more information on SCOHS,

contact Karen Kirkbride @ 949-824-1677 or karen.kirkbride@uci.edu

Thanks to our recent donors to the Stem Cells Offer Hope Society

We are happy to welcome our most recent donors to the Stem Cells Offer Hope Society:

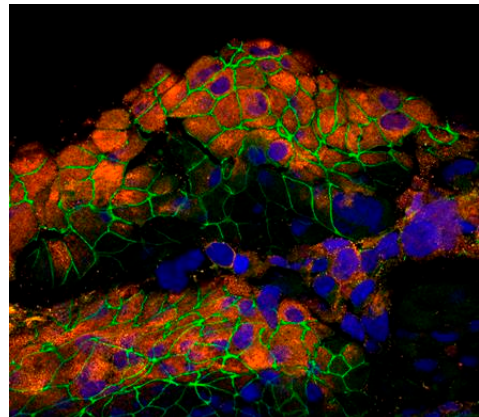
Annie and Clement Chu, MD
Patricia Wright Ellis
M. N. Mansour, PhD and Isis Mansour
Karen and Michael Patton

Thank you for your generous support and welcome to the society!

Save the Date for "Bold Expressions"

BOLD EXPRESSIONS: The third annual Stem Cells Offer Hope Art Exhibition and Wine Reception will be held on **Thursday, May 7, 2015 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.**

For more information about this event and sponsorship opportunities contact Janice Briggs @949-824.-0091 or jbriggs@uci.edu



Thank you once again to our generous sponsor Edward O. Thorp, PhD

[Click here to view artwork from past exhibitions](#)

SEMINARS AND TOURS

FALL SEMINAR SERIES

Sue & Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center Fall Seminars are held in the Edward O. Thorp Conference Center on the fourth floor of Gross Hall: A CIRM Institute. For more information about the seminar series which is open to the public, contact Alma Castro @ 949-824-9621 or almac2@uci.edu or [click here](#)

TOUR SUE & BILL GROSS STEM CELL RESEARCH CENTER

Now you can get a behind-the-scenes peek at the center and learn first hand from the scientists about the hope that stem cells offer.

Upcoming 2015 Tour Dates:

Thursday, March 12th 8:30 -10:00 am
Thursday, May 14th 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Wednesday, July 15th 1:30 - 3:00 pm
Wednesday, September 9th - 8:30-10:00 am

For more information and to register for a tour, contact:
Karen Kirkbride @ 949-824-1677 or karen.kirkbride@uci.edu
or [click here](#)

Sue & Bill Gross Hall: A CIRM Institute

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845 Health Sciences Road
Irvine, CA 92697
949-824-9621