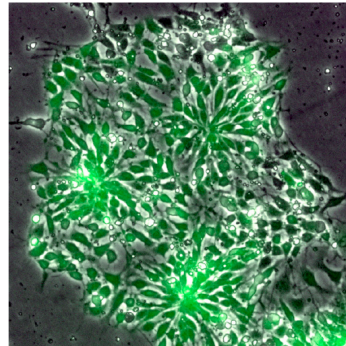


Bochum Stem Cell Group



member of the

Kompetenznetzwerk
Stammzellforschung NRW



Newsletter November 2009

Please find herewith the first issue of the Newsletter of the Bochum Stem Cell Group. This Newsletter will appear at least once pre semester and inform you about important developments and dates around the Stem Cell Network NRW.

The Bochum Stem Cell Group is an informal network of scientists who share a common interest in basic research relating to stem cells and potential applications in biology, biotechnology and regenerative medicine. Stem cells are characterized by the capacity of self-renewal and the potential to generate various types of progeny. As consequence of scientific progress in reproduction research, it is now possible to study mammalian embryonic stem cells in the test tube and in various animal models. In 2006, Prof. S. Yamanaka in Japan has shown that differentiated cells of mammals can be re-programmed with a limited number of factors to acquire the properties of ES-cells. Thereby, the possibility emerges to create individual ES-cell lines that could be used for various purposes. Nowadays, stem cell research constitutes a global, exponentially growing field of science. Current investigations aim both at basic mechanisms of stem cell maintenance and differentiation and manifold applications in the fields of biotechnology and medicine. In fact, stem cells are

considered a promising source of cell replacement. Stem cell research therefore represents a pivotal key discipline of regenerative medicine. Leading Academic Institutions have responded to these developments by the creation of large institutes exclusively devoted to the many facets of stem cell research. The corresponding investments reach figures in the range of billions of dollars. As examples for many, I would like to mention the Harvard Stem Cell Institute. It is obvious that under these circumstances, individual investigators or even departments represent relatively small units in a global competitive field. Therefore, the creation of local networks seems mandatory. In order to support stem cell research at Ruhr-University, the Bochum Stem Cell Group has the objective to enhance interactive collaborative exchanges on the campus and to encourage joint scientific projects. The expected gain of synergy will hopefully lead to interdisciplinary collaborations that may eventually result in projects for joint funding. The Bochum Stem Cell Group is

member of the Stem Cell Network NRW.

In order to initiate interactions and exchanges on the campus of Ruhr-University, the speaker of the Stem Cell Group has organized the 1st Bochum Stem Cell Forum that will take place on November 28th in the new lecture rooms of Ruhr-University (Veranstaltungszentrum).

Established investigators, junior group leaders and postdoctoral scientists will present exciting developments and insights in the stem cell field. Graduates and young postdoctoral scientists are invited to present their current work in a poster session. The registration for this meeting is free and catering is provided. Please take this unique opportunity to present and discuss your data. You are invited to register using the website of the Bochum Stem Cell Group, as indicated here <http://www.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/bochum-stemcell-group/>

Please contact Dipl. Biol. Michael Karus for any question concerning the meeting.

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