

This quarter the [UKSCB](#) announces a number of new and exciting developments of interest regarding enhanced access to key research stem cell lines, a new automation programme at UKSCB and new guidance on donor tissue and cells for cell therapy:-

➤ **WiCell and UK Stem Cell Bank announce plans for mutual exchange of stem cell lines.**

WiCell and the UKSCB announce a revolutionary and world-leading initiative to exchange cell lines so a combined panel of each institution's most popular cell lines will be available through each center. The plan will ease delivery of human pluripotent stem cell (hPSC) lines to researchers around the world and significantly reduce shipping costs for the most widely used cell lines. This joint initiative is the result of UKSCB and WiCell's established track record of collaboration on best practices for hPSC banking and characterization going back almost a decade. ([Press release](#))



➤ **New R&D and automation programme to be initiated under new funding for UKSCB from June 2014**

In June the UKSCB initiated its new phase of funding to 2017 and this will now include an additional £400K funding to begin a programme of automating the preparation and characterisation of human pluripotent stem cell lines. It is intended that this will enable more streamlined banking and testing procedures to release banking staff to carry out more detailed characterisation and research on stem cell lines held at the Bank.

➤ **New guidance for selection of donor tissue for cell therapies**

New guidance on selection of donor tissue for use in cell therapy has just been published by the Department of Health in the UK. The report is the product of a subgroup of the standing advisory committee on Safety of Blood Tissue and Organs ([SaBTO](#)), to which the NIBSC and UKSCB staff contributed. The report deals with key issues to be addressed for genetic and microbiological testing of cells donated for development of therapies. In addition, it addresses special considerations in establishing donor consent for use of cells and tissues in therapy. [Read more...](#)

➤ **Get in touch with the UKSCB through [enquiries](#) and visit the [website](#) for more information on:**

- ✓ Placing an order for [human stem cell lines](#) and qualified mouse feeder cells ([QMEFs](#));
- ✓ EUTCD [qualification](#) of cell lines intended for clinical applications;
- ✓ Obtaining information on [current Research & Development](#) at the UKSCB;
- ✓ Exploring collaborative research and development towards [quality, safety and standardisation](#);
- ✓ Arrange a meeting with the UKSCB team.

➤ **Where can you meet UKSCB staff summer 2014:**

- ✓ The 10th Catholic International Stem Cell Symposium – Highlights on Stem Cell Therapy, September 20th 2014, [Catholic University of Korea](#), Seoul.