



THE VICTOR CHANG
CARDIAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

MEDIA ALERT

For immediate release
Friday 2 September 2005

From Egg to adult: Constructing the complexity of life

Over 900 developmental biologists will meet in Sydney for an international congress that aims to address how our bodies are shaped and how our organs are built – how we grow from a single-celled egg into a trillion-celled adult.

By understanding how embryonic life begins and develops, these biomedical scientists also hope to gain an understanding of how regeneration occurs and how stem cells may be used to treat diseases in later life, including heart disease and cancer.

This year's congress is being organised by senior scientists from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI), which is a research centre for excellence in heart development and adult cardiac stem cell research.

What: The 15th International Society of Developmental Biologists Congress will be held in Sydney in early September, media are invited to cover the launch of the congress - morning tea will be provided.

Where: Tumbalong Auditorium, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, at Darling Harbour. Media are to go to the Registration Desk on Level 2, Convention Centre South. Paid parking is available at the Centre.

When: 7.30am for 8am for Opening Ceremony start, Sunday 4 September 2005. Interviews are available from 10am during morning tea.

- Find out how the congress brings together Australian and International scientists and acts as a catalyst for sharing of information, discussion and scientific collaboration.
- Speak to international and local leaders in developmental biology about emerging technologies including stem cell research and tissue regeneration, and where Australia is heading in this international effort.
- Speakers at the opening ceremony include the International Society's President and senior scientists from the VCCRI. The first lecture is by Nobel Laureate Professor Sydney Brenner.
- Media pack available including background information, images and media release.

Sessions open to media overleaf

For further information, interview or images please contact:

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Media Times for Sessions at the 15th International Developmental Biologists Congress Sydney, 4-7 September 2005

Sunday 4 September 2005

- **New found pathway to fertility:** Dr Erez Raz – Session between 10.30am and 1pm, talks between 11.25-12.00, in the Promenade Meeting Room 1
- **The mouse as a model of man:** Mario Capecchi – Session between 10.30am and 1pm, talks between 11:25 to 12.00 in the Tumbalong Auditorium.
- **Hairy baggage carousel: the key to left-right orientation in baby development:** Dr Nobutaka Hirokawa, session between 2-4.30pm, talks between 2:00pm and 2.35pm in the Tumbalong Auditorium
- **Shape is just as important as what's inside:** Dr Jeff Axelrod, session from 2:00pm to 4.30pm, talks at 3.50pm to 4.25pm in Tumbalong Meeting Room 1 and 2

Monday 5 September 2005

- **Human embryonic stem cells, where we are at:** Martin Pera, session between 10.30 and 1pm. talks at 10.30 to 11.05 in Promenade Meeting Room 1.

Tuesday 6 September 2005

- **Wired for sex:** Barry Dickson, Plenary speaker, 9.15am to 10.00am, can interview at 10am, in the Tumbalong Auditorium.
- **Plant stem-cells talk - captured on 3-Dimensional camera:** Dr Elliot Meyerowitz, session between 2pm and 4pm, talks at 2.15 – 3: in Tumbalong Auditorium.
- **The tiny key to gene control:** Dr Stephen Cohen – session at 4.30pm to 6pm, talks at 4.30pm to 5.15pm in Tumbalong Auditorium, interviews at 6pm or before session at afternoon tea (4:00pm to 4:30pm)

Wednesday 7 September 2005

- **The future of stem cell research:** Nadia Rosenthal, session between 2pm and 4.30pm, talks between 2:00pm and 2.35pm in Promenade meeting room 1.
- **Flat worms hold the key to regeneration?;** Dr Kiyokazu Agata, session between 2pm and 4.30pm, talk at 3.50pm – 4.25pm in Promenade meeting room 1. Interview during afternoon tea – 4.30pm to 5.00pm.

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