

## 2006 AGM to be the best yet!

The Stem Cell Network's 6th Annual General Meeting is taking place November 13-15, 2006 in Ottawa. The event, which precedes the official opening of the Sprott Centre for Stem Cell Research, on November 16, and closes with BioNorth 2006, promises to be the best AGM yet! The AGM provides excellent networking opportunities with partners, scientists, bioengineers, clinicians and ethicists.

This year's AGM boasts a number of well-known international speakers. To learn more about the speakers, go to page 2.



### AGM registration now open

The AGM registration page is up! To register for the AGM and submit abstracts, go to [www.stemcellnetwork.ca/agm](http://www.stemcellnetwork.ca/agm).

### Opening of Sprott Centre for Stem Cell Research to follow AGM



Eric Sprott

The official opening of the OHRI's Centre for Stem Cell Research will follow this year's AGM.

The centre, which will be the largest in Canada devoted to stem cell research, will house 10 scientists and more than 100 research staff in a 30,000-square-foot facility.

Among others, the centre's team will include SCN Scientific Director Michael Rudnicki, along with fellow SCN PIs Miguel Andrade, Jeff Dilworth, Harry Atkins, Lynn Megeney and Valerie Wallace.

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**Do you have a story  
idea for CELLlines?**

***Have a job ad to post?***

***Want to announce  
a training event?***

***We want to  
hear from you.***

**Contact Lori Barron at:  
[lori@stemcellnetwork.ca](mailto:lori@stemcellnetwork.ca)**

## AGM planning continues

The SCN Steering Committee, chaired by Peter Zandstra, has completed the AGM agenda.

This year, the Network will begin the sponsorship solicitation process early.

The package highlights the benefits of being a Network partner, and sponsoring the meeting.

All PIs interested in receiving a sponsorship package should contact **Drew Lyall** by email at [drew@stemcellnetwork.ca](mailto:drew@stemcellnetwork.ca) or by phone at (613) 562-5384.

## SCN preparing for web re-launch

SCN will be launching a brand-new website at this year's AGM. To ensure a fresh new look throughout, we will be contacting network PIs over the summer for updated photos and contact information.

If you want to beat the rush, PIs can send new photos (lab shots if you have them) to **Lori Barron** at [lori@stemcellnetwork.ca](mailto:lori@stemcellnetwork.ca)

## Multidisciplinary stem cell course postponed

The multidisciplinary stem cell course scheduled for July has been postponed. The course will now take place in the fall term.

The new date will be announced in the August issue of CELLlines.

Please visit the Stem Cell Network website for more information at [www.stemcell-network.ca/training](http://www.stemcell-network.ca/training).

## AGM to host a number of international speakers



**Chris Chen, MD, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Innovation in Bioengineering  
Dept. of Bioengineering  
University of Pennsylvania



**Rudolf Jaenisch, MD**  
Founding Member,  
Whitehead Institute  
Professor of Biology, MIT



**Cynthia Cohen, PhD, JD**  
Kennedy Institute of Ethics,  
Georgetown University,  
Washington, D.C.



**Sean Morrison, PhD**  
Associate Professor,  
Internal medicine and Cell and Developmental Biology  
University of Michigan  
Medical School



**George Daley, MD, PhD**  
Associate professor,  
Pediatrics at Children's Hospital, Boston  
Biological Chemistry & molecular Pharmacology  
Harvard Medical School



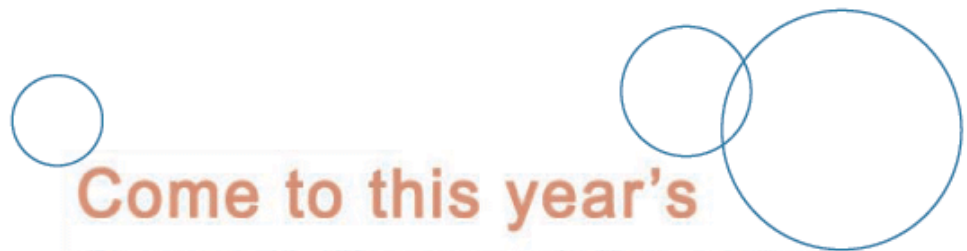
**David Scadden, MD**  
Professor of Medicine,  
Harvard University  
Co-director, Harvard Stem Cell Initiative & Director of the Center for Regenerative Medicine and Technology at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH)



**Michele De Luca, MD**  
Stem Cell Scientist,  
University of Modena.



**Andreas Trumpp, PhD**  
Associate Scientist,  
Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research



Come to this year's  
Annual General Meeting,  
stay for BioNorth



13<sup>th</sup> Annual Life Sciences and Biotechnology  
Conference and Exhibition  
November 20 & 21, 2006  
Ottawa Congress Centre

## Guidelines for Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Research have been updated

The following changes came into effect June 28, 2006

The following changes have been made from the June 2005 Guidelines:

-Provision 8.1.1.2 is no longer under review. The text remains unchanged from the June 2005 Guidelines.

-Provision 8.1.6.2 of the June 2005 Guidelines (7.1.6.2 of the March 2002 Guidelines) has been removed. It required evidence from prior studies in non-human species, that human pluripotent cells grafted into non-human animals were not likely to contribute to gametes. SCOC agreed that this was an impossible requirement for researchers to meet, since it required proof of a negative outcome. Since 8.1.6.3 required that the non-human animals grafted with human stem cells not be used for reproductive purposes, SCOC was satisfied that, in the unlikely event that the cells were to contribute to gametes, those gametes would not be used for reproductive purposes.

-The text of provision 8.3.1 of the June 2005 Guidelines has reverted to the text of 7.2.1 of the March 2002 Guidelines. The 2005 Guidelines reflected advice from Health Canada, including its view that requesting consent to the disposition of supernumerary embryos prior to initiation of

an assisted human reproduction (AHR) procedure could be construed as deliberately producing embryos for reasons other than human reproduction.

Discussion at the November meeting of SCOC, however, revealed that the specific reference in the AHR Act to the 2002 Guidelines likely means that changes by CIHR to the 2002 Guidelines would not constitute a legally valid change to the consent requirements of the Act. Therefore, SCOC recommended that the text of 8.3.1 revert to the wording of 7.2.1, as written in the 2002 Guidelines.

Please note that the Guidelines will be updated on an annual basis, and will be posted in June. CIHR continues to work in close collaboration with Health Canada to ensure that the Guidelines are in harmony with the regulations that are being developed for the Act. Should any change to the Act or its regulations require modifications of the Guidelines, outside of the annual update, these will be posted prominently on the CIHR website.

For more information, please visit the CIHR's website, at <http://www.cihrrisc.gc.ca/e/31488.html>

### Stem Cell Network/Muscular Dystrophy Canada Ph.D. Studentships Applications due: September 15, 2006

Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC) and the Stem Cell Network (SCN) are pleased to announce funding for up to two Ph.D. studentships with the aim of increasing the number of Canadian Ph.D. students being prepared for research careers in the fields of neuromuscular disorders and related disciplines with an emphasis on stem cell research.

The application deadline for SCN/MDC Ph.D. Studentships is September 15, 2006 with the awards expected to run from November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2008. The Application Guidelines and Application Form will be posted on the SCN website shortly.

Inquiries can be directed to Wyn Chivers, National Executive Director, Muscular Dystrophy Canada at [wyn.chivers@muscle.ca](mailto:wyn.chivers@muscle.ca) or to Tia Moffat, Acting SCN Manager of Scientific Affairs and Training at [tia@stemcellnetwork.ca](mailto:tia@stemcellnetwork.ca).

## Bush vetoes stem cell bill

On July 19, 2006, President George Bush vetoed the *Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act*, which had previously been passed by the US House of Representatives.

The Bill, which Bush vetoed for moral concerns, would have allowed further public funding for embryonic stem cell research.

"I made [it] very clear to the Congress that the use of federal money, taxpayers' money, to promote science which destroys life

in order to save life, I'm against that, I'm against that," Bush told reporters. "Therefore if the bill does that, I will veto it." (CNN)

Though Bush has threatened vetoes in the past, it is the first of his presidential career.

SCN researchers have been quoted about the veto in several publications.

The veto will have no direct affect on research in Canada.



The Second EuroStemCell International Conference, *Advances in Stem Cell Research*, is taking place September 8-10, 2006, in Lausanne, Switzerland. The event will feature leading scientists, biotechnologists and clinicians, discussing the latest developments in stem cell research.

*Hydra II: European Summer School, Stem Cells & Regenerative Medicine*, September 15-21, 2006, in Hydra, Greece.

For more information, please visit the EuroStemCell website at:

<http://www.eurostemcell.org/>

From the TAC

# Getting a Job after your Graduate Degree

*This is the first in a series of articles to enlighten SCN members to some of opportunities available to them. In each article that follows, we will profile a specific career within Government, Academia, and Industry settings, as well as, those in the realm of finance and consulting.*

*To begin this series, we at the TAC believe it is important to help equip those of you looking for a job with some tools.*

**By Ian Copland  
and  
Gareth Palidwor**

**W**hen you're buried in work trying to complete a your degree it can be hard to see, but the end goal is a job of some sort. Finding a good job takes a lot of preparation. That preparation should start well before your active job search does. Since most people will change jobs every few years (sometimes unexpectedly), being ready to start a job search at any time is a good habit to get into.

There are many opportunities for those of us trained in science. Not only can you find jobs doing lab research, but you can also work in sales, management, technical writing, strategic planning, clinical research, marketing, R&D and virtually any department at firms engaged in business related to your scientific training.

There are even jobs in the financial markets that require people with a background in science.

The tools you will need for your job search are: a good resumé (or two) & cover letter, a current knowledge of the types of jobs

available in your field (we'll help you there!) and a good set of contacts.

Your resumé is an advertisement about you; its purpose is to provide the reader - either an employer or recruitment consultant - with enough interesting and positive information about your skills and abilities that they want to meet you to find out more.

There are basically four sections every resumé must have - name and contact details (personal details), education, work history, and details regarding any additional skills or experience, training undertaken, computer skills, foreign languages spoken and professional associations you belong to.

Describe your skills by detailing your qualifications, responsibilities, and achievements - that is what you have actually done and when you did it. You will be asked what you think your strengths are at the interview stage. Personal interests need not be included as these are mostly irrelevant to your tasks within the job and can also create an inaccurate impression of you.

It is important to remember that the one-size-fits-all resumé usually

fits nothing. For instance an academic resumé is very different than a commercial resumé. An academic resumé emphasizes academic achievements, awards, and usually provides an exhaustive list of posters, presentations, and publications. Conversely a commercial resumé is much shorter than an academic targeted resumé, and places the emphasis on skills.

Therefore it is always good to have several resumé on hand that can be update easily or tailored to fit the requirements of a specific job.

For commercial resumes, keep in mind that many large companies use databases to maintain lists of applications which they search by keyword for candidates. So it's important to make sure that keywords relevant to your experience are in the text of your resume. These can be general technologies/techniques (qPCR), specific product names (RNeasy), or company names (Affymetrix, Qiagen). These should be associated with clear descriptions of your experience with these technologies/techniques.

Besides your resumé, a well constructed cover letter is equally

important in creating a good first impression. Take some time to tailor it to each application as this will increase your chances of getting an interview.

Before starting, research the company to which you are applying. Then your letter can refer to specifics about the employer's business as reasons why you are interested in working there. Keep it short. Most cover letters stick to one page and use a standard business letter format.

A basic template for a good cover letter is to mention in the first paragraph where you learned about the job opportunity and why you are interested. Establish a professional image in the second and third paragraphs by highlighting your most significant accomplishments and qualifications.

You may consider using bullet points in your middle paragraphs to further highlight accomplishments, but be careful not to quote your resume verbatim. Next clarify what you can contribute to the employer's organization rather than what you hope to gain from

**See JOBS on page 7**

## SCN TAC Invitation to New Trainees

*Practice your presentation skills at the 2006 AGM in Ottawa*

Calling all energetic new trainees

**T**he SCN TAC would like to extend a formal invitation to you to give a 10-15 minute presentation of your research in a friendly, "no questions asked" environment.

This is an opportunity to sharpen and develop your presentation and communication skills. Please join SCN Trainees at a practical but

relaxed session, held in conjunction with this year's AGM, on Monday, November 13, in Ottawa.

Please submit a maximum 200 word abstract, complete with a research title and contact information by October 11.

Sign up early, as space is limited at this event.

Only selected candidates will be contacted.

**Please email your abstract or any questions to Ian Copland (icopland@ldi.jgh.mcgill.ca) or Poh Tan (poh@brc.ubc.ca).**

## *From the NCE*

# 2006 NCE Young Innovator Awards

For the third consecutive year, the NCE Young Innovator Awards program recognizes the young entrepreneurs by honouring outstanding individuals who, with the help of their networks, have been exceptionally successful in transferring their innovative research to a business, process, or service to benefit society at large.

The award selection takes into account the needs of the users and constraints of their context of activities, the adaptation of research dissemination for the needs of users, and the depth of the mechanisms of exchange, including the social or institutional mechanisms of linkages between the candidate and the users.

The 2006 awards will recognize the best Canadian research transfer accomplishments of NCE young innovators in the following fields:

1. **Knowledge transfer for social input**
2. **Technology transfer for commercial exploitation**
3. **Knowledge translation for the health sector**

### **Nomination Process and Selection Criteria**

There are no nomination forms. Nominations should be submitted on 8.5" x 11" paper, minimum 10-point type.

### **Nominations must include the following:**

- A two-page covering letter from the Scientific Director and/or the Chair of the Board recommending the nomination. The letter should include the nominee's full name, as well as a mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address where the nominee can be reached until December 6, 2006. At least one page must be

used to describe the rationale for the nomination, including the excellence and leadership of the nominee; the excellence of the research carried out, the uniqueness of the research results being transferred to the user sectors and the means used (e.g. patent, start-up company, scientific presentation, conference, workshop, etc.); the socio-economic impact of the transfer of research results; and the challenges faced when transferring the results to the receptor community.

- An up-to-date, public, short biography (maximum five pages) that provides information on the excellence and leadership of the nominee's contributions to publications, collaborative research and transfer activities, as well as any awards, etc. received by the nominee. The biography should be signed by the nominee.

- A one-page letter of recommendation from the former NCE

Supervisor (or Head of the Department of the former NCE Institution). The letter should identify the student's leadership skills and his/her contributions to the research. This letter will confirm that the nominee has worked for two years on NCE research projects and provide the date of a degree being awarded, if appropriate.

- A one-page letter from the receptor sector that describes the impact and usefulness of the NCE knowledge transferred (e.g. a letter from an organization where the knowledge has been implemented or from venture capitalists who invested in the technology, etc.).

**Nomination deadline:  
September 27, 2006**

## NCE Board Chairs' Award

*The following is an excerpt from an NCE communication*

### **Overview**

On the occasion of the retirement of Dr. Tom Brzustowski, Chairman of the NCE Steering Committee, and in recognition of the contribution that the Granting Councils have made to the development of the Networks of Centres of Excellence since the program's inception in 1989, the Chairs of the NCE Boards of Directors, at their meeting on June 29, 2005, approved the establishment of the "NCE Board Chairs' Award".

### **The Nature of the Award**

The Award will be made annually starting in 2006 through a competitive process that will require the submission of an Essay. It will focus on the impact the author's research has had in support of the NCE goals. They include mobilizing the excellence of Canada's research talent in the academic and private sectors towards developing the economy

and improving the quality of life of Canadians.

The Essay will discuss how quality research, partnerships, students, networking, and national and international collaboration have all contributed to achieving the goals of the NCE program.

The Essay, however, must be written in such a style that it may be published in a non-research journal. It is not a research paper. It would explain in plain language how the world would be a better place as a result of the research.

The Award will be made annually as a result of a competition open to any network researcher who is currently still actively engaged in network-sponsored research.

The Award is valued at a maximum of \$20,000 per annum. The cost will be shared by all Networks; each Network will contribute \$1000 each year from non-NCE funds. (For 2006, the

total amount will be \$15,000).

The Award will be a cash prize and to be used at the winner's discretion.

### **The Competition**

The competition is open to any network investigator who is actively engaged in research funded through his or her individual Network.

The competition will be in two stages. Each NCE will hold its own competition for a President's Medal, struck with the NCE insignia, logo and the winner's name. Each Network will establish its own process for selecting its own medal winner.

Medal winners from each Network competition will enter a final round. There will be only one submission per network. A panel of judges nominated by the NCE Directorate will adjudicate the final round and will recommend who should hold the award.

In the event that the competition

yielded no suitable candidate for the Award, the cash prize would accrue.

The NCE Directorate will manage the review process and, for each year, a network administrative centre shall be appointed by the Award Committee to manage the collection of funds and the purchase of certificates and medals for the Chairs' Award. The GEOIDE administrative centre has volunteered and been appointed to play this role for the 2006 Chairs' Award.

The Board Chairs have appointed an Award Committee to support the NCE Directorate in administering the program.

**Deadline for application is  
August 15, 2006**

**For rules, procedures and application information, please contact SCN Executive Director Drew Lyall.**

## Centre: Eric Sprott donates \$7-million for stem cell research

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The Sprott Centre for Stem Cell Research is funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Ontario Innovation Trust, the Kresge Foundation, and private donors, including Eric Sprott, a Toronto businessman, who, with his wife, Vizma, recently donated \$7-million to the facility.

Sprott's donation, which will go toward creating an endowment fund to support advances at the new stem cell research facility, is the largest individual donation in the hospital's history.

Sprott said he considered stem cell research



## SCN researchers featured in new book about stem cell research

This month, Karen van Kampen's new, non-fiction book, *The Golden Cell: Stem Cells, Gene Therapy and the Quest for the Next Great Medical Breakthrough*, is being published in softcover by HarperCollins. Van Kampen interviewed several Network researchers for the book, including Tim Caulfield, Bartha Knoppers, Jane Aubin and Michael Rudnicki. Past Scientific Director Ron Worton was also interviewed.

## 4th Annual ISSCR Meeting

# Canadian research shines as pioneers honoured at ISSCR

More than 30 years ago, two Canadian researchers working at the Ontario Cancer Institute proved the existence of stem cells, and forever changed the face of science. This year, researchers from around the world gathered in the city where it all began for the 4th annual International Society for Stem Cell Research meeting.

One of the highlights of the event was the Presidential Symposium, held in honour of Jim Till & Ernest McCulloch for their pioneering work in stem cell research.



ISSCR president, Gordon Keller opens the 2006 meeting in the city where stem cell research began, with a symposium in honour of Till and McCulloch.



Gordon Keller provides Jim Till and Ernest McCulloch with a special tribute for their work on the identification of hematopoietic stem cells and their description of stem cell properties.



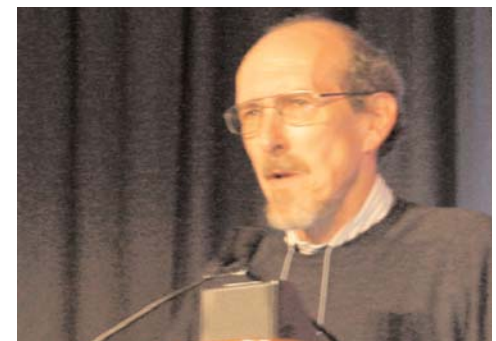
In his keynote speech, Nobel Prize laureate John Polanyi spoke to meeting participants about the obligation as scientists not only perform good science but to communicate outside of the immediate scientific environment.



Jim Till accepts ISSCR's tribute award on behalf of himself and Ernest McCulloch. In his speech, Till spoke of the great work that was built on their own research, and stressed the need for continued support of basic science for the sake of "those great scientific surprises that you just can't plan for".



Robert Philips of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research paid tribute to Till & McCulloch with an engaging retrospective on the pair's work at the Ontario Cancer Institute.



Continuing in the theme of hematopoietic stem cells, SCN Investigator, Norman Iscove presented his work in Specification of Sustained Self-renewal in Hematopoietic stem cells.

## Other News

# World-class stem cell program first in Western Canada to be awarded accreditation from Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy

The following is an excerpt from a press release

**EDMONTON** - A major American certification body, the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT), has awarded a three-year accreditation to the collection and processing facilities of the Edmonton Stem Cell Transplant Program, operated by Canadian Blood Services.

The endorsement by FACT, specifically for peripheral blood progenitor cell collection and laboratory processing at Canadian Blood Services and the Alberta Cancer Board's Cross Cancer Institute (CCI), is the first such endorsement in Western Canada. "This demonstrates that we have the capabilities of doing outstanding work in research and clinical services," says Locksley McGann, Laboratory Director for the pro-

gram.

"There's no doubt that in the future cellular therapies and tissue transplantation are going to play an increasingly important role in treating diseases," says McGann, pointing out that the researchers and clinicians involved in the program are primarily engaged in the treatment of cancer, but will likely expand into other areas.

Officials with the Canadian Blood and Marrow Transplant Group estimate that over 1,200 transplants are performed annually by 23 Canadian programs, with the number of transplants and transplant centres growing every year. The Edmonton program collected, processed and transplanted stem cells for 50 patients in 2005.

The development of the clinical

facilities, patient treatment, and research on cryopreservation under the guidance of the three institutions, Canadian Blood Services, Alberta Cancer Board and U of A, has resulted in an outstanding program in Edmonton. McGann explains that plans are now underway to increase the visibility of the program, which will encourage researchers from a broad spectrum of medical disciplines to conduct related research; ultimately, the goal is to move research developments into the clinical environment.

**For more information, visit [www.factwebsite.org](http://www.factwebsite.org)**

## Registration is open for Genome Canada's Applied Computational Genomics Course

The Bioinformatics Platform for Genome Canada will be offering an Applied Computational Genomics Course from September 8-14, 2006, in Winnipeg.

For more information and to register, please go to [www.gcbioinformatics.ca/training](http://www.gcbioinformatics.ca/training), or contact the group by phone, at (403) 210-9533, or by email at [training@gcbioinformatics.ca](mailto:training@gcbioinformatics.ca).

## JOBS: Lots of work for scientists

### Continued from page 4

this potential relationship. Remind the reader, in the last paragraph, that your resumé will further explain your qualifications, experience and education. Finally close your letter by telling the reader that you look forward to hearing from the company, and restate your enthusiasm for learning more about the opportunity. Double-check your document for spelling and grammar, carelessness makes a bad impression on employers.

With a good resume and cover letter in hand you can now start applying for jobs Like good apartments, many good jobs are never advertised, they simply pass between friends. Therefore, the more people you know and who know you, the more likely a good job is going to find you. Obtaining and maintaining a good contact list is a very important facet of the job search and in future articles we will profile some ways to help

build contacts and develop your interviewing skills.

Now for those eager to start a job search, the best place to start is the Internet. The Online job search is becoming more popular and reliable, however, for those in medical research the typical on-line job banks are not the best place to start your job search. There many good science job sites on the internet (see list below) for both academic and industrial positions.

Regularly visiting a bunch of web site can be a chore, so to simplify access, most sites now provide a mechanism for savings searches whose results will be mailed to you regularly or can be accessed as an RSS feed through a newsreader. It can be useful to make your search terms somewhat broader (both geographically and with keywords) than the specific position you are looking for.

This serves two purposes; first it may show you job types that you had not considered before and sec-

ond it can show you general trends in an industry/company (i.e. If a given job posting by a pharmaceutical company is part of a larger group of hirings, that there are suddenly a lot of jobs showing up in a specific city).

After a few months of monitoring job postings, you will begin to have a sense of the current state of hiring in your field. Of course when searching on-line job banks and job announcements, be careful to check application deadlines and the date of each posting. Many of the web sites that contain job listings are not maintained regularly.

1. [www.sciencejobs.com](http://www.sciencejobs.com)
2. [sciencecareers.sciencemag.org](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org)
3. [www.nature.com/naturejobs](http://www.nature.com/naturejobs)
4. [www.science-jobs.org](http://www.science-jobs.org)
5. [aaas.sciencecareers.org](http://aaas.sciencecareers.org)
6. [www.adsumo.com](http://www.adsumo.com)
7. [www.seltekconsultants.co.uk](http://www.seltekconsultants.co.uk)
8. [www.faseb.org](http://www.faseb.org)
9. [www.jobhunt.org/medicine.shtml](http://www.jobhunt.org/medicine.shtml)
10. [careers.the-scientist.com](http://careers.the-scientist.com)
11. [www.sciencejobs.org](http://www.sciencejobs.org)

12. [www.phds.org](http://www.phds.org)
13. [http://careers.carrieres.nrcnrc.gc.ca/Careers/career\\_main.nsf/pagee/JobsAvailableNow](http://careers.carrieres.nrcnrc.gc.ca/Careers/career_main.nsf/pagee/JobsAvailableNow)

Hopefully, this first article has given you some valuable information on how to go about finding a job with your scientific background. If you wish to have a career path profiled or have specific question about a profiled career contact the TAC at [tac@stemcell-network.ca](mailto:tac@stemcell-network.ca).

*Next month the TAC will profile: Becoming a Strategic Commercialization Manager. The Strategic Commercialization Manager (SCM) is a University employee who identifies opportunities for commercialization from research taking place in that institution, develops a plan to maximize the economic and social impact and directs the implementation of the plan in collaboration with other University staff, industry, financial and government partners.*