

BT/MED/SCB/01/2006
Government of India
Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Biotechnology
Block No. -2 (6–8th Floors), CGO Complex
Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003

Subject: Call for Research Proposals on ‘Stem Cell Research’

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) invites proposals in the area of stem cell research on basic research, pre-clinical studies employing stem cells in animals models of various diseases and Phase-I clinical trial where proof of concept has been established through animal studies. The purpose of the announcement/advertisement is to promote basic and clinical stem cell research in the country and to create close collaborative network of basic researchers, clinicians and industry. Multi-centric and multi-investigator proposals will be encouraged with proper milestones, time schedule and defined role of individual institutes/centres based on their expertise. Several rounds of meetings, specific brainstorming sessions and workshops were organized by the Department to identify the priority areas in the field of stem cell. Some of the identified areas of interest are:

Basic Research

- Basic stem cell biology on all types of stem cells including embryonic, adult, tissues; generation of human embryonic stem cell lines; study the factors that generate stem cells and to maintain stem cells in undifferentiated cells; trafficking of stem cells, etc.
- Study of gene transduction, gene regulation and plasticity of stem cells.
- Human embryonic stem cells as a tool to study cellular and molecular mechanisms of disease.
- Use of embryonic stem cells for drug testing.

Pre-Clinical Studies

- To define the potential applications of mesenchymal stem cells in animal models of various diseases such as spinal cord injury, retina pigmentosa, etc. Mesenchymal cells would be produced by the industry under cGMP conditions and would be supplied to the institutes/hospitals as per the requirement for the proposed studies.

Facilities

- cGMP facility for pilot or commercial production of cell based therapy products in institutional and industry setting respectively.
- Transgenic Animal Facility.

Centre for Excellence

The ‘Centre of excellence’ proposal may be submitted for establishment of core facility or infrastructure to handle stem cells. The details of ‘Centre of Excellence’ are available on DBT’s websites.

Training

DBT is willing to consider the short-term and long-term overseas training applications or one year fellowship programme for stem cell research. The applicant must be holding a permanent position in the institute/hospital in India. The details of specialized training of young scientists are available on DBT’s websites.

The scientists/clinicians with necessary expertise in stem cell research may submit project proposals with specific aims and objectives on DBT’s format available at DBT’s websites www.dbtindia.gov.in OR www.dbtindia.nic.in. Multi-centric/multi-investigator projects could be preferred with proper milestones and time schedules. The project proposals may be sent to Dr Alka Sharma, Principal Scientific Officer, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Block No. 2 (8th Floor), CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003. Any additional enquiry may be addressed at Phone: 24363699, Fax: 24362884, e-mail: alka@dbt.nic.in