



# THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

2023-24 | EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Founded in 2002, the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) is an independent, global, nonprofit organization that promotes excellence in stem cell science and applications to human health. The society represents 4,500 scientists, educators, ethicists, and business leaders across 80 countries. Together, our vision is a world where stem cell science is encouraged, ethics are prioritized, and discovery improves understanding and advances human health.

## THE FIELD

Stem cells are the body's original cell types from which all human cell types develop, and they have potential for vast applications including understanding fundamental biological principles to improving human health. Decades of basic and ongoing research using stem cells has uncovered new principles in development, regeneration, aging, and disease, especially in humans.

And now, after decades of rigorous basic research, seminal discoveries, and major advances in technology, the field is poised to address some of the most intractable diseases of our time. Among them: type 1 diabetes, Parkinson's disease, cardiac repair, and macular degeneration. Already, hundreds of thousands of people owe their lives to hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, the first successful stem cell therapy, and a growing number of others are benefiting from the use of stem cells for tissue grafts to treat bone, skin, and corneal diseases and injuries. The scientists behind this progress are those behind the ISSCR.

## OUR IMPACT

### EDUCATION AND GLOBAL COLLABORATION

The ISSCR is the largest and most respected organization of stem cell researchers in the world. Each year, the society hosts a large annual meeting, several regional symposia, and a series of digital programs, shining a bright light on regions of the world excelling in research and technology. The objectives of each event are to facilitate the exchange of research findings to accelerate the field, mentor the next generation of scientists, and encourage rigor and ethical practice across all disciplines. Additionally, the ISSCR publishes *Stem Cell Reports*, an open access journal communicating advances in stem cell research and clinical applications. The society also provides educational resources for the public and educators.

### GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

The ISSCR sets widely adopted international guidelines addressing the diversity of cultural, political, legal, and ethical issues associated with stem cell research and its translation to medicine. The guidelines maintain and underscore widely shared principles in science that call for rigor, oversight, and transparency in all areas of practice. Each ISSCR member makes a personal commitment to uphold the [ISSCR Guidelines for Stem Cell Research and Clinical Translation](#), when applying for membership. Additionally, the ISSCR is now developing quality standards for basic stem cell research to strengthen the rigor and reproducibility of laboratory research and ultimately the pipeline for therapies.

### ADVOCACY

The ISSCR actively educates policy makers and regulators about the current state of stem cell research, advocates for funding, and promotes measures to prevent the marketing of unproven stem cell therapies to patients. The ISSCR's policy practice includes a fellowship program to mentor young researchers who wish to advocate for the field.

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*Additional information is available at [ISSCR.org](http://ISSCR.org).*

