



SUE AND BILL GROSS STEM CELL RESEARCH CENTER

MISSION

The Sue and Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center at UC Irvine seeks to realize the potential of stem cell biology to lead to new treatments for devastating human illnesses. The Center provides a collaborative infrastructure for research across all areas of stem cell biology, contributes to the training and mentorship of the next generation of stem cell pioneers and maintains a core laboratory facility for use by stem cell scientists at UCI and elsewhere. In maintaining our campus as a leading center of excellence for stem cell research, the Center can help sustain Orange County's biomedical economy and make an on-going contribution to the important social dialogue on stem cell science, ethics and policy.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Building on a long history of achievement in developmental biology and the neurosciences, UCI researchers have crossed several early milestones in the application of stem cell research to human disease. In addition, a team of UCI researchers had the foresight to secure access - and funding - to newly-isolated human embryonic stem cells in 2001, enabling UCI to advance this science while many institutions waited on the sidelines because of a lack of Federal funding.

Now, UCI scientists have used stem cells to make significant advances toward nerve repair and regeneration, as well as studied the role of brain-derived stem cells in the onset of neurodegenerative diseases. Other UCI researchers studying stem cell growth have made a fundamental discovery that may one day enable stem cells to provide a large-scale source of healthy replacement cells for tissues damaged by disease or injury.

The goal of the Sue and Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center is to further develop these advances for clinical evaluation and eventual delivery to patients. In addition, by making needed laboratory facilities available to the UCI research community, the Center promotes stem cell approaches to a wide range of disease areas, including spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, ALS, heart disease, Alzheimer's, stroke, Parkinson's, eye disorders, hearing loss, childhood brain disorders, Huntington's, diabetes and cancer. This dynamic research environment is expected to help recruit outside faculty to the Center, further enriching its diversity of faculty expertise.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The Sue and Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center at UCI considers strong ties with the neighboring patient community as an essential component of its success. In the past, patients have informed Center scientists and even suggested new research directions based upon their experiences. Patients and their families also foster needed reassurance when technical barriers present themselves and assist our on-going dialogue with the public at-large.

Our scientists welcome leaders in the Orange County patient community to contribute to the stewardship of the Center by participating in a Patient Advisory Committee and other activities. This community partnership paves the way for our scientists to develop ground-breaking stem cell discoveries - right here in Orange County!