

# RCUK Review of the UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN)

## Annex A full - survey results

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The survey was piloted with three members of the UKNSCN email correspondence list. Following feedback the survey instrument was revised to reflect comments that arose from the pilot exercise. The survey instrument is included as an appendix to this annex.

In order to try to avoid sampling bias the survey was sent to all members of the UKNSCN e-mail correspondence list. This list is used to circulate news bulletins, events and other relevant information to anyone who has an interest in stem cell research and its application.

A notification email was dispatched to 2362 contacts on the correspondence list. This email notified contacts of the intention to undertake a survey and gave them an opportunity to opt-out of participating in the research. This email could not be delivered to 243 email addresses. In addition a further 25 people asked not to be included in the research. Once the database had been cleaned this left a total of 2094 email addresses to which the survey was sent. Two reminder emails were issued and a news item about the survey was featured in the UKNSCN news and event bulletin (which is sent to the same email correspondence list as was used for the survey itself). The survey was open for three weeks from 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010 to the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2011.

55 individuals started but did not complete the survey. Data from these incomplete responses has not been included in this report. Completed submissions were received from 290 individuals representing a 13.8% response rate. PSP achieved a 34% response rate in 2008 (a difference of 72 responses).

The lower response rate for this survey could have been due to a number of factors including: the nature of the membership in that some members are more closely engaged with the work of the network than others, the time of year when a significant number of people are on leave and survey fatigue. Some feedback suggests that members receive a large amount of email correspondence from the UKNSCN so this may have also been a factor.

The full findings of the survey are reported in this annex and the evidence presented here is used to inform the full report.

## Findings

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<b>1. Which of the following comes closest to describing your involvement with the UKNSCN, over the past two years?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
I have had some direct involvement, such as by attending the annual conference or receiving funding:	<b>50%</b>	<b>145</b>
I have had only limited involvement, e.g. only involvement is receiving the email bulletin:	40%	117
I have not had any involvement with the UKNSCN:	7%	19
Other (please specify):	2%	6
No answer	1%	3
Total	100%	290

<b>2. In which of these sectors do you mainly work?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
higher education sector:	<b>59%</b>	<b>170</b>
private sector:	18%	51
public sector:	15%	44
voluntary & charitable organisations':	4%	13
Other (please specify):	3%	9
No answer	1%	3
Total	100%	290

<b>3. And are you based mainly</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
in the UK:	<b>64%</b>	<b>187</b>
outside the UK:	16%	47
No answer	19%	56
Total	100%	290

<b>4. Which of the following best describes the nature of your interest in stem cell research and its application?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
Academic research:	<b>56%</b>	<b>162</b>
Commercialisation:	10%	30
Clinical application:	8%	24
Translation:	6%	16
Other (please specify):	4%	13
Technology provision:	4%	11
Funding:	2%	7
Policy:	2%	6
Public engagement:	2%	6
Regulation:	1%	4
Charity:	1%	3
Legal issues:	1%	3
No answer	1%	3
Media:	0%	1
Patient:	0%	1
Venture capital investment:	0%	0
Total	100%	290

<b>5. Please indicate if you have used any of the following UKNSCN services over the past two years. For those that you have used please rate how useful, if at all, you found them.</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>no answer</b>	<b>%</b>
Applied to the small awards scheme	12	4%	249	86%	29	10%
Been involved in some other way	33	11%	218	75%	39	13%
Contributed to consultations	42	14%	217	75%	31	11%
Advertised/promoted something through UKNSCN	48	17%	209	72%	33	11%
Attended other workshops/events	82	28%	183	63%	25	9%
Received the patents digest	120	41%	143	49%	27	9%
Attended the annual scientific conference	141	49%	130	45%	19	7%
Visited the website	219	76%	56	19%	15	5%
Received the email bulletin	262	90%	14	5%	14	5%

<b>6. For those services that you have used in the past two years please rate how useful, if at all, you found them.</b>	<b>very useful</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>fairly useful</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>not very useful</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>not at all useful</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>don't know</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No answer</b>	<b>%</b>
applied to the small awards scheme	10	3%	3	1%	0	0%	3	1%	28	10%	246	85%
contributed to consultations	12	4%	20	7%	3	1%	1	0%	27	9%	227	78%
been involved in some other way	22	8%	14	5%	1	0%	0	0%	26	9%	227	78%
advertised/promoted something through UKNSCN	27	9%	13	4%	5	2%	1	0%	29	10%	215	74%
attended other workshops/events	42	14%	40	14%	1	0%	1	0%	16	6%	190	66%
received the patents digest	36	12%	56	19%	23	8%	2	1%	20	7%	153	53%
attended the annual scientific conference	83	29%	54	19%	2	1%	1	0%	14	5%	136	47%
visited the website	66	23%	132	46%	10	3%	3	1%	8	3%	71	24%
received the email bulletin	98	34%	135	47%	18	6%	2	1%	1	0%	36	12%

<b>7. In what ways, if at all, would you say you have benefitted from your involvement with the UKNSCN?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
Flow and exchange of information	<b>53%</b>	<b>111</b>
Networking/access to contacts	28%	59
Not applicable	8%	17
None	5%	10
Other	19%	39

<b>8. Would it have been possible to achieve these benefits if you hadn't been involved with the UKNSCN?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
No:	<b>33%</b>	<b>95</b>
Maybe:	32%	94
No answer	17%	48
Don't know:	10%	28
Yes:	9%	25
Total	100%	290

<b>9. To what extent would you say you know and understand the role of the UKNSCN? Would you say that...</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
You understand it to some extent:	<b>48%</b>	<b>139</b>
You understand it to a large extent:	33%	97
You understand it fully:	11%	33
You do not understand it at all:	4%	11
Don't know:	2%	5
No answer	2%	5
Total	100%	290

<b>10. How effective or ineffective do you feel the UKNSCN has been in relation to each of the following objectives over the past two years?</b>	<b>very effective</b>		<b>fairly effective</b>		<b>not at all effective</b>		<b>don't know</b>		<b>no answer</b>	
Acting as the national focal point for interaction with overseas researchers seeking collaboration with UK researchers	40	14%	90	31%	23	8%	132	46%	5	2%
Working together with other stakeholders to ensure the effective coordination of national activities in stem cell research and its promotion in the media	35	12%	111	38%	19	7%	115	40%	10	3%
Facilitating interactions to promote the uptake and use of stem cells by the scientific, business and medical communities	35	12%	142	49%	16	6%	90	31%	7	2%
Coordinating existing activities through the sharing of knowledge	63	22%	162	56%	8	3%	55	19%	2	1%

<b>11. In meeting the above objectives how important is it to you that the UKNSCN does the following?</b>	<b>essential</b>		<b>very important</b>		<b>fairly important</b>		<b>not at all important</b>		<b>don't know</b>		<b>no answer</b>	
collaborates with overseas organisations and networks to learn and share best practice	49	17%	131	45%	70	24%	11	4%	19	7%	10	3%
engages with the general public through the provision of web-based information	51	18%	131	45%	68	23%	11	4%	20	7%	9	3%
links/partners with a range of UK stakeholders	60	21%	135	47%	55	19%	5	2%	28	10%	7	2%
promotes innovation and interdisciplinarity to accelerate translation of basic research	52	18%	144	50%	52	18%	11	4%	19	7%	12	4%
represents the UK stem cell community both at home and overseas	73	25%	130	45%	49	17%	14	5%	15	5%	9	3%
informs and advises the community and other stakeholders to assist in the facilitation of stem cell research	57	20%	149	51%	48	17%	7	2%	15	5%	14	5%
communicates the progress in stem cell research and stem cell therapies, in a balanced and objective way	74	26%	142	49%	45	16	3	1%	12	4%	5	2%

<b>12. If you think the UKNSCN should perform any other roles not already stated above then please explain what these are and why</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
Raising/providing research grant funding	<b>26%</b>	<b>6</b>
Engaging with government e.g. advisory/lobbying activities	17%	4
Interaction with lay audiences e.g. patients	13%	3
Wider focus	9%	2
Build on international links	9%	2
Other	30%	7

<b>13. To what extent do you think there is future demand for the UKNSCN?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
High demand:	<b>54%</b>	<b>156</b>
Some demand:	31%	90
Don't know:	10%	30
No answer	3%	10
No demand:	1%	4
Total	100%	290

<b>14. Are you satisfied with how the UKNSCN keeps you informed about its work?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
Yes:	<b>71%</b>	<b>207</b>
Maybe:	18%	52
Don't know:	5%	15
No:	3%	8
No answer	3%	8
Total	100%	290

<b>15. If you answered 'yes' above please can you explain what in particular is good about how UKNSCN currently keep you informed</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
Email communication e.g. e-bulletin/newsletter events info	<b>91%</b>	<b>99</b>
Website	8%	9
Other	15%	16

<b>16. To what extent, if at all, would you be interested in being involved with the UKNSCN in the future?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
Fairly interested:	<b>40%</b>	<b>117</b>
Very interested:	31%	89
Don't know:	13%	39
Not very interested:	7%	21
Other (please specify):	4%	12
No answer	4%	12
Total	100%	290

<b>17. If you answered 'very interested' or 'fairly interested' how would you like to be involved?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
Receiving information/attending events	<b>36%</b>	<b>38</b>
Expert advisor/consultant/representative to the network	11%	12
Support/help organise the conference or other meetings/events	10%	10
Steering committee	8%	8
Understand more about how could be involved	7%	7
Involvement in/facilitation of collaborations/links (e.g. interdisciplinary, UK and overseas researchers/ researchers, funders and patients/public	7%	7
Promote/share research activity and/or products or charity work	6%	6
Speak/present at the conference or other meetings	4%	4
Receiving funding	3%	3
Contribute to debates/consultations	3%	3
Sponsorship	2%	2
Through regional networks	2%	2
Other	25%	26



<b>18. What, if anything, is the one thing you value most about the UKNSCN, and why?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
Provision of information	<b>34%</b>	<b>50</b>
Annual scientific conference	21%	31
National focal point	11%	17
Networking/access to the community	8%	12
Broad scope/inclusivity/representation	5%	8
Other meetings	5%	7
Other	22%	32

<b>19. What, if anything, is the one thing that you think the UKNSCN most needs to change and why?</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Number</b>
Unsure	<b>19%</b>	<b>16</b>
More inclusive/representative of the community	14%	12
Better engagement with wider user base - particularly clinical and commercial	10%	9
Funding/security - being more secure through securing funding	8%	7
Nothing	7%	6
Promotion	6%	5
Raise international profile	6%	5
Improve website	3%	3
Support students	3%	3
Become a society	2%	2
Focus on research	2%	2
Grant funding	2%	2
Identify USP	2%	2
Information about overseas collaborations	2%	2
Other	17%	15

Sarah Townsend  
Ros Rouse

RCUK Strategy Unit  
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## Appendix – Survey

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### UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN) Survey

RCUK is undertaking a review of the UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN) on behalf of its funders. This is a light touch review, undertaken on behalf of RCUK by the RCUK Strategy Unit. This follows a major review of the network conducted by People Science and Policy (PSP) in autumn 2008. The PSP review made a number of recommendations to the networks sponsors about its future direction. For the full PSP report see: [http://www.uknscn.org/0902\\_uknscn\\_review.pdf](http://www.uknscn.org/0902_uknscn_review.pdf).

This current review aims to establish what has changed as a result of these recommendations and what effect this has had. This review will also look to establish how the UKNSCN has carried out its role, what level of continuing demand there is for the UKNSCN and obtain advice on its future strategic direction.

In order to do this it is vital that we consult with members of the stem cell and regenerative medicine community, as those who make use of, and benefit from, the UKNSCN's operations. This is a broad community and includes people from all fields including those in the academic, private, public and third sectors both within and outside of the UK. Therefore we have targeted this survey at all current members of the UKNSCN email correspondence list. We would be interested to hear from those who may be less well engaged with the UKNSCN as well as those who are well engaged.

The survey is expected to take approximately 15 minutes to complete. If you have any queries then please click the contact button and we will endeavor to get back to you as quickly as possible. For information about how we will deal with the information you provide to us please read the fair processing statement below. Please click on Continue to begin the survey.

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**Fair processing Statement:** The information you provide within this survey is designed to be anonymous, please consider this when answering the free text questions as we may use anonymised quotations in the final report, however precautions will be taken to ensure, as far as possible, that these cannot be attributed to a particular respondent. Whilst the data will not be processed for any other purposes other than to administer the survey anonymised comments may be passed on to the UKNSCN Management Team where this may help improve their service. Once the survey is complete the aggregate data will be extracted and securely stored on the Research Councils UK extranet. The survey documents will then be deleted

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Section 1: About you and your involvement with the UKNSCN

1. Which of the following comes closest to describing your involvement with the UKNSCN, over the past two years?

- I have had some direct involvement, such as by attending the annual conference or receiving funding
- I have had only limited involvement, e.g. only involvement is receiving the email bulletin
- I have not had any involvement with the UKNSCN
- Other (*please specify*):

2. In which of these sectors do you mainly work?

- Higher education sector
- Private sector
- Public sector
- Voluntary and charitable organisations'
- Other (*please specify*):

2a. And are you based mainly

- In the UK
- Outside the UK

3. Which of the following best describes the nature of your interest in stem cell research and its application?

- academic research
  - charity
  - clinical application
  - commercialisation
  - funding
  - legal issues
  - media
  - patient
  - policy
  - public engagement
  - regulation
  - technology provision
  - translation
  - venture capital investment
  - other (*please specify*):
-

Section 2: What have you got out of your involvement with the UKNSCN?

4. Please indicate if you have used any of the following UKNSCN services over the past two years. For those that you have used please rate how useful, if at all, you found them.

	Used in past 2 years		How useful did you find this				
	yes	no	Very useful	Fairly useful	Not very useful	Not at all useful	Don't know
a. attended the annual scientific conference							
b. attended other workshops/events							
c. visited the website							
d. received the email bulletin							
e. received the patents digest							
f. applied to the small awards scheme							
g. contributed to consultations							
h. advertised/promoted something through UKNSCN							
i. been involved in some other way							

5. If you answered that you have 'been involved in some other way' please specify what this involvement was.

6. If you answered 'very useful' or 'not at all useful' for any of the options above please explain why.

7. In what ways, if at all, would you say you have benefited from your involvement with the UKNSCN?

7a. Would it have been possible to achieve these benefits if you hadn't been involved with the UKNSCN?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Don't know

7b. Please explain why you think that

Section 3: The role that the UKNSCN performs

8. To what extent would you say you know and understand the role of the UKNSCN? Would you say that...

- You understand it fully
- You understand it to a large extent
- You understand it to some extent
- You do not understand it at all
- Don't know
- Other (please specify):

9. How effective or ineffective do you feel the UKNSCN has been in relation to each of the following objectives over the past two years?

	Very effective	Fairly effective	Not at all effective	Don't know
a. coordinating existing activities through the sharing of knowledge				
b. facilitating interactions to promote the uptake and use of stem cells by the scientific, business and medical communities				
c. acting as the national focal point for interaction with overseas researchers seeking collaboration with UK researchers				
d. working together with other stakeholders to ensure the effective coordination of national activities in stem cell research and its promotion in the media				

10. If you answered 'very effective' or 'not at all effective' for any of the options above please explain why.

11. Do you think there are other ways of meeting these objectives other than through the UKNSCN?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Don't know

11a. If you answered 'yes' can you explain why you think that, what these alternatives might be and if these are preferable or not to the UKNSCN.

12. In meeting the above objectives how important is it to you that the UKNSCN does the following?

	Essential	Very important	Fairly important	Not at all important	Don't know
a. represents the UK stem cell community both at home and overseas					
b. links/partners with a range of UK stakeholders					
c. promotes innovation and interdisciplinarity to accelerate translation of basic research					
d. informs and advises the community and other stakeholders to assist in the facilitation of stem cell research					
e. communicates the progress in stem cell research and stem cell therapies, in a balanced and objective way					
f. collaborates with overseas organisations and networks to learn and share best practice					
g. engages with the general public through the provision of web-based information					

13. If you answered 'essential' for any of the options above please can you explain why you think this and where possible provide specific examples of how UKNSCN is doing this.

14. If you answered 'not at all important' for any of the options above please explain why.

15. If you think that the UKNSCN should perform any other roles not already stated above then please explain what these are and why.

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#### Section 4: Future demand for the UKNSCN

16. To what extent do you think there is future demand for the UKNSCN?

- High demand
- Some demand
- No demand
- Don't know

16a. Please explain why you think that

17. Are you satisfied with how the UKNSCN keeps you informed about its work?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Don't know

17a. If you answered 'yes' above please can you explain what in particular is good about how UKNSCN currently keeps you informed. If you answered 'no' above how could this be improved?

18. To what extent, if at all, would you be interested in being involved with the UKNSCN in the future?

- Very interested
- Fairly interested
- Not very interested
- Don't know
- Other (please specify):

18a. If you answered 'very interested' or 'fairly interested' how would you like to be involved?

19. What, if anything, is the one thing you value most about the UKNSCN, and why?

20. What, if anything, is the one thing that you think the UKNSCN most needs to change, and why?

21. Is there anything else not covered by this survey you would like to add?