



Stem Cells for Safer Medicines

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**APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR CARDIAC STEM CELL RESEARCH TO IMPROVE
THE DISCOVERY OF NEW MEDICINES**

Stem Cells for Safer Medicines (SC4SM) is offering up to £160,000 in funding to investigate the modelling of cardiac cells from stem cell lines.

One larger or two smaller projects of maximum twelve month duration will be supported, all of which need to be focussed on the characterisation and validation of cardiomyocytes to be used *in vitro*.

SC4SM is a public-private collaboration, launched by Science Minister Ian Pearson in October 2007. Its purpose is to promote research to create open standards and protocols and a suite of stem cells which can be used to speed the discovery and screening of new medicines.

Dr Philip Wright, Chief Executive SC4SM, said: "The development of stem cell technology will greatly help with early screening of candidate medicines in the future.

"This is second call for applications for funding following on from the work last year to fund research into liver stem cell technologies applied to early drug research."

Applications are invited from academia and SMEs in the UK. There will be a two application process. Details are available on the SC4SM website at www.sc4sm.org and via info@sc4sm.org or 020 7747 8877.

SC4SM is funded by three pharmaceutical companies – GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca and Hoffman-La Roche; and five Government partners – the Department of Health, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Scottish Government, the Medical Research Council and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The aim of the SC4SM programme is to develop stem cell technology for use at an early stage in safety testing, to eliminate new drug candidates which may have potential side-effects in humans, before animal or human trials are conducted.
- The partnership seeks to establish open protocols and standards in stem cell differentiation for use in medicines testing, and works with industry and academia to achieve this. It adheres to an ethical policy in the sourcing of stem cells, and it does not work on regenerative medicine.

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