

Stem Cell Energetics

Stem cell fate determination has traditionally been ascribed to signaling pathways affecting transcriptional regulation that would shift the cell's identity toward self renewal or differentiation. Recently, a new layer of complexity has emerged, in that cellular metabolism is a key determinant of stem cell function. Given the intersection in topics, *Cell Metabolism* and *Cell Stem Cell* are pleased to be partnering up with Michael Teitell and Emmanuelle Passegue to organize the upcoming Cell Symposium on Stem Cell Energetics in Berkeley, CA, on December 9–11, 2014. Further details can be found at <http://www.cell-symposia-stem-cell-energetics.com/>.

As a preview of the meeting, we are happy to present a series of short personal perspectives, called “Voices,” from many of the conference speakers on emerging issues in stem cell metabolism and future directions of the field. Beginning with our co-organizers talking about metabolic plasticity defining function and mitochondrial dynamics in pluripotent stem cells, the commentaries touch on diverse concepts such as small molecules derived from cellular metabolism, including what Miguel Ramalho-Santos calls “micro-epigenetics,” the bioenergetic requirements of quiescence and coming out of it, mitochondrial disease and potentially editing the mitochondrial genome, plasticity in stem cell metabolism and its impact on aging, regeneration and cancer stem cells, and interactions with the microenvironment. Many of the speakers highlight the application of established approaches, such as metabolomics and its sister-omics, and emerging technologies to help resolve some of the key questions in the field. A better understanding of stem cell metabolism will no doubt be instrumental in maximizing the therapeutic potential of stem cell therapy in combatting diseases, such as cancer, and potentially reversing the degenerative decline of tissues associated with aging.

We are really looking forward to having thought leaders from the metabolism and stem cell fields intersect during this two-and-a-half-day meeting. The session titles are “Metabolic regulation of stem cell self renewal,” “Niche influence on stem cell metabolism,” “Energetics of stem cell flux,” “Mitochondria in stem cell fate,” and “Metabolites in stem cell epigenetics and reprogramming”—and the Keynote Speaker will be Sean Morrison. In addition to the usual stellar lineup of invited and chosen short-talk speakers, this Cell Symposium will feature our regular trademark features, such as a “Meet the Speakers” dinner, as well as some surprises, including Speed Networking and Awards. I look forward to seeing you in California next week!

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Cell Metabolism Editorial Office Hours

The December *Cell Metabolism* editorial office hours will be on Thursday, December 18th. Nikla Emambokus will be available from 10 to 11 a.m. EST and both Anne Granger and Andy Johnson will be available from 2 to 3 p.m. EST. Please call our Cell Press office at 617-397-2800. Our office hours continue to be a great opportunity for us to hear your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and cool science and answer your questions. We are looking forward to wrapping up the year with you!

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