

MEDIA ADVISORY

**StemCellTalks: Opening Dialogue on Stem Cell Science
and Practical Ethics**

2011 Symposium filled with notable speakers

TORONTO, February 28, 2011— More than 150 senior high school biology students will experience a crash course in the ethics and dilemmas surrounding the hot-button issue of stem cell science. Filled with expert-led debates and interactive breakout sessions, the second annual **StemCellTalks Symposium** aims to create a dialogue among the minds that will soon make their ways into the medical industry.

The in-depth conversations StemCellTalks provides allow students to surpass the philosophical concerns regarding stem cell science and develop critical thinking that they can apply to their future careers. A StemCellTalks Symposium will also be occurring simultaneously in the Desmarais building on the University of Ottawa campus at 9:00 AM.

Who: Prominent stem cell researchers including: **Freda Miller**, Hospital for Sick Children, bioethics experts **Shane Green**, McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health, and **Sowmya Viswanathan**, the University Health Network Cell Therapy Program, as well as students in grades 11-12 from 18 public and private schools across the GTA.

What: The debate of stem cell science and clinical trials. Also includes interactive exhibits.

When: Friday, March 11, 2011
9:00 AM – 3:45 PM

Where: MaRS Collaboration Auditorium
101 College Street
Toronto, Ontario

Key Symposium Highlights:

- **Debate:** Replacement of neurons versus myelin-producing cells for the treatment of spinal cord injury: **Derek van der Kooy**, **Molly Shoichet**, Freda Miller & **Cindi Morshead** at 11:10-11:25AM
- **Panel Discussion:** Stem cell therapies and clinical trials: Shane Green, Molly Shoichet, **Thu Minh Nguyen** & Sowmya Viswanathan at 2:25-3:00PM

StemCellTalks is an outreach initiative created to facilitate the understanding of the science and practical ethics of stem cells. StemCellTalks allows students to independently reflect on current bioethics in a field characterized by rapid scientific advancement. StemCellTalks Symposiums occur throughout Canada.

For more information, please visit: <http://letstalkscience.sa.utoronto.ca/stemcelltalks/>

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