

Insights from the Network

A letter from SCN's Associate Scientific Director

Dear stem cell community,

It is an absolute pleasure to communicate with you for the first time as the Associate Scientific Director of the Stem Cell Network. It is a great honour and responsibility to be able to actively contribute to advancing stem cell and regenerative medicine research in Canada. These are exciting times as we seek to capitalize on SCN's previous success in building a vibrant stem cell community that has contributed to several world first discoveries, cementing Canada's position at the forefront of regenerative medicine. Throughout the years, these discoveries have advanced from the Petri dish to animal models and some are now being translated into the clinic.

Thanks to the relentless efforts of the SCN staff securing substantial funding from the Government of Canada, SCN is now able to **IGNITE** the next chapter of its history.

Over the next 5 years, it will be critical to develop an effective and rigorous clinical trial engine to facilitate high quality clinical translation of the discoveries made over the past 20 years, while promoting basic science research to maintain a virtuous cycle that ensures a steady pipeline of innovative and disruptive therapies for patients. Canada must capitalize on the commercial potential of regenerative medicine, which will open new opportunities with the outlook on self-sustainability. In this vibrant environment, it will be easy to foster the next generation of stem cell

scientists, an area where SCN has excelled since its inception. The current funding opportunities are focused on fuelling the regenerative medicine pipeline in each of these important areas from Petri dish to patient and to market while supporting early career investigators to become leaders in the field.

Accelerating this virtuous cycle will ensure that Till and McCulloch's legacy fulfills its promise: harnessing the full potential of regenerative medicine for the benefit of patients and society.



Dr. Bernard Thébaud is a clinician-scientist with a focus on the clinical translation of stem cell-based therapies for lung diseases. He is a senior scientist with the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and a neonatologist with the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, providing care to critically ill newborns. He is also a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Ottawa. As Associate Scientific Director of the Stem Cell Network, Dr. Thébaud supports the Network in building its translational programs and activities.

