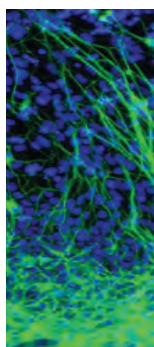




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## Texas–U.K. Collaboration

*Policy, Regulation, Ethical and Collaborative Issues*

**September 14, 2009**

Kelly International Conference Facility  
James A. Baker III Hall  
Rice University



British Consulate-General Houston



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James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy • Rice University

Additional support for this program was generously provided by **Stematix, Inc.** ([www.stematix.com](http://www.stematix.com)).

# Stem Cells: Saving Lives or Crossing Lines Texas–U.K. Collaboration

## Agenda

- 2:00 pm Welcoming remarks  
**May Akrawi, Ph.D.**  
Consul, Science and Innovation, British Consulate–General, Houston
- Moderation  
**William Brinkley, Ph.D.**  
Distinguished Service Professor, Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology; and Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Baylor College of Medicine
- Session II: Policy, Regulation, Ethical and Collaborative Issues
- 2:15 pm Texas Politics and Policy  
**Lorraine Chamah**  
Grassroots Chairman, Texans for Advancement of Medical Research (TAMR)
- Governance of Stem Cell Regulation in the U.K.  
**Rob Buckle, Ph.D.**  
Head, Neurosciences and Mental Health Board, Medical Research Council
- Question & Answer Session
- 3:30 pm Break
- 3:45 pm International Stem Cell Policies  
**James Lawford–Davies, L.L.M.**  
Lecturer in Law and Medicine, University of Newcastle; and Visiting Research Fellow, University of Durham Law School
- Medical Tourism and Stem Cell Research  
**Paul Simmons, Ph.D.**  
Professor and Director, Center for Stem Cell Research, The Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
- Question & Answer Session
- 5:00 pm Reception

## *About the Event*

“Texas–U.K. Collaboration” is the fifth conference in the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy’s “Stem Cells: Saving Lives or Crossing Lines” series. The event brings together researchers from Texas and the United Kingdom to find common projects for collaboration. Speakers will discuss advancements in the fields of stem cell biology and policy with regard to policy roadblocks and policy changes in the Obama administration.

Co-sponsors for the conference are the TX–UK Collaborative and the Science and Innovation Team of the British Consulate–General Houston. In addition, support for this conference and the Baker Institute International Stem Cell Policy Program has been generously provided by the State of Qatar and the Emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al–Thani, through the State of Qatar Endowment for International Stem Cell Policy. Funding for this event was also provided by Stematix, Inc.

## *Participant Biographies*

**May Akrawi, Ph.D.**, is the British consul for science and innovation of the British Consulate–General, Houston. Akrawi has a keen interest in technology transfer and development, and before her appointment to the British Consulate she worked with In Vitro Technologies to head up their first European office in London. In that position, she worked in a scientific and business development and marketing role to establish a network of pharmaceutical and biotechnology clients for the company, as well as initiate collaborations on new R&D projects. Akrawi also worked with the Wellcome Trust promoting “The Public Understanding of Science” and conducting genomics workshops for visitors and students. Additionally, she was a scientific research analyst at a U.S. law firm, specializing in scientific issues relating to product liability litigation for blue–chip clients and establishing networks of scientific and medical consultants worldwide. Akrawi has also held the position of program manager for pharmaceutical discovery at a business information company. She received her B.Sc. in biochemistry and Ph.D. in molecular biology, both from University College London, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Molecular Biology in Barcelona investigating genomic microsatellite sequences.

**William R. Brinkley, Ph.D.**, is senior vice president for graduate sciences and dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine. He is also the Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology and serves as co–director of the W.M. Keck Center for Computational and Structural Biology. Brinkley began his

career at Baylor in 1976 as the director of the Division of Cell Structure and Function in the Department of Cell Biology. In 1985, he became chair of the Department of Cell Biology and director of the Gregory Fleming James Cystic Fibrosis Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He returned to Baylor in his present position in 1991. As dean, Brinkley is interested in the training of future scientists, and he is active in the curriculum development and analysis of career opportunities. Brinkley received his Ph.D. from Iowa State University, and completed his post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

**Rob Buckle, Ph.D.**, is the head of the Neurosciences and Mental Health Board of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Head Office in London. He is also the lead on Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine. Buckle's responsibilities span research strategy and funding, as well as policy and public communications. In addition to the MRC's role in supporting stem cell research, it also provides the secretariat to the independent steering committee for the U.K. Stem Cell Bank and the Use of Stem Cell Lines, which has an important role in the oversight of ethical embryonic stem cell research in the U.K. In addition, the MRC chairs two strategic coordination committees — the U.K. Stem Cell Funder's Forum, which encompasses all major funders of stem cell research in the United Kingdom, and the International Stem Cell Forum, which currently has 22 member organizations from 20 different countries.

**Lorraine Chammah** is the state grassroots chair for Texans for Advancement of Medical Research. She is an officer on the board of directors of several nonprofit organizations, including the Capital Area Parkinson's Society. As a community activist, she has been involved in numerous patient advocacy efforts as well as a number of public school initiatives including funding for fine arts and school health programs. Chammah is a state-certified science teacher and a registered nurse with many years of experience working in a variety of settings, including public and private schools, hospitals and nonprofit organizations in Texas and New York City. She was also health consultant and author of the science textbook series "Teen Health: Decisions for Everyday Living," and author of "Pregnancy Prevention Resource Guide for Registered Nurses in Middle Schools," an Austin community resource guide. Chammah holds a B.A. in biology from College of Saint Elizabeth, a B.S. in nursing from New York University and an M.S. from The University of Texas at Austin.

**James Lawford-Davies, L.L.M.**, is a lecturer in law and medicine at the University of Newcastle, a visiting research fellow at Durham University Law School, and a senior associate at Clifford Chance in London. He specializes in

the law relating to reproductive and genetic technologies, human tissue and cells, and related research. Lawford–Davies advises a large number of clinics and research centers licensed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) and has been involved in most of the leading cases relating to assisted reproduction and related research. He has advised widely on the regulatory and commercial issues relating to embryo and embryonic stem cell research, including cell nuclear replacement, human–animal hybrids research, import and export, and the implications of European Union law.

**Paul J. Simmons, Ph.D.**, serves as professor and director of the Center for Stem Cell Research at The Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM) at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. The major focus of Simmons' research for many years has been to utilize the paradigm of the hematopoietic system as a model to understand the mechanisms that contribute to the extrinsic regulation of stem cells in adult organs by the tissue microenvironment (stem cell niche) in which the stem cells reside. Simmons has received international recognition for his pioneering contributions to basic hematopoiesis research. Current studies in his lab focus on the characteristics and biological properties of hematopoietic stem cells (HSC) and mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) as well as defining the cell and molecular composition of the respective niches for these two stem cell populations during ontogeny and in the adult skeleton. Additional studies focus on the identification of stem cells in the adult lung as a means to develop novel cellular therapies for treatment of the many disorders that currently affect the respiratory system. Simmons is or has served as associate editor on multiple journals in the field of stem cell biology, including *Experimental Hematology*, *Cytotherapy* and *Stem Cell Research*, and is on the editorial boards of *Cell Stem Cell*, *Blood*, and *Stem Cells*. Simmons graduated from Queen Elizabeth College at the University of London, United Kingdom, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Manchester.

## ***Science and Technology Policy Program***

The mission of the Science and Technology Policy Program is to provide a space for policymakers and scientists to engage in substantive dialogue on pressing scientific issues facing the nation and the world. Through this program, the Baker Institute sponsors a series of workshops, lectures, research projects and conferences designed to address a broad range of policy issues that affect scientists and their research, as well as the application of science for the public good. These issues include space, health and medicine, energy and the environment, national and domestic security, science education, and the federal government's support of science and technology. The program is run by Neal Lane, senior fellow in science and technology policy, and Kirstin Matthews, fellow in science and technology policy and program manager. Details and descriptions of the Science and Technology Policy Program's projects can be found at <http://science.bakerinstitute.org>.

## ***TX-UK Collaborative***

The TX-UK Collaborative fosters cross-disciplinary collaborations among researchers in world class institutions in Texas and the United Kingdom, building new areas of research and building capacity. The cross-disciplinary research at the interface of the nano, bio and info sciences creates new ideas, techniques, products and opportunities. The collaborative supports thematic workshops and research planning meetings bringing researchers from diverse backgrounds together focusing on specific problems, as well as exchange visits to facilitate research programs. It has contributed significantly to the establishment of research alliances and centers and to the development of technologies. For additional information regarding the collaborative, contact Denis Headon, director, at [headon@rice.edu](mailto:headon@rice.edu), 713.348.4118 or visit our Web site at [www.texasukcollaborative.com](http://www.texasukcollaborative.com).

## ***Science & Innovation Team, British Consulate General-Houston***

The Science & Innovation Team in Houston is part of the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office's network of global science attachés. They work to facilitate collaborations between science and innovation providers and users in the U.K. and the United States in industry, academia and research institutions. In addition, they keep U.K. policymakers fully informed about research and policy developments in the United States, as well as promote the U.K. as a world-class leader in science and innovation. The S&I Network also reports on policy developments, strategy and emerging priorities and facilitates international negotiations and collaborations in areas such as climate change, stem cell research, nanotechnology and low carbon technologies. For more information, please contact S&I Consul May Akrawi at [may.akrawi@fco.gov.uk](mailto:may.akrawi@fco.gov.uk) or 713.659.6270 (x2134).