



Stem cells: Current reality and future promise

The rapidly evolving field of stem cell research continues to raise great hope among patients. Stem cells are undifferentiated cells capable of self-renewal that can differentiate into all the specialised cell types of the body when exposed to appropriate environmental cues. Adult stem cells are found in almost all tissues of the body, perhaps the best known being bone marrow, while embryonic stem cells are responsible for much of the ethical controversy that surrounds stem cells. The current therapeutic applications of stem cells include bone marrow transplantation. In the future it is likely that stem cells will be used to treat diseases of the heart, central nervous system and endocrine system among others.

Michael Pepper is Director of the Institute for Cellular and Molecular Medicine, and a professor in the Department of Immunology in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Pretoria. He is also professeur associé in the Department of Genetic Medicine and Development in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. He obtained his MBChB in 1982 from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Cape Town, and moved to Geneva (Switzerland) in 1986, where he obtained his PhD in 1990 and MD in 1992. In 1997 he obtained his Habilitation and had the title Privat Dozent conferred on him. He returned to South Africa in July 2004.

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Date: Wednesday, 31 October 2012

Time: 17:00

Venue: Senate Hall, Hatfield Campus, Pretoria

GPS coordinates: S25° 45' 21" E28° 13' 51"

Dress: Day suit

RSVP: By 26 October 2012, uprsvp5@up.ac.za

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Prof Michael Pepper

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