Welcome

to the

World Stem Cell Report

Message from Bernard Siegel, Founder and Editor-in-Chief, *World Stem Cell Report*, Executive Director of Genetics Policy Institute and Founder and Co-chair, World Stem Cell Summit

“ Our 2012 World Stem Cell Report aims to provide ‘actionable intelligence’ to the community as part of our mission to enhance societal support, facilitate collaborations and accelerate the march to cures... ”

When the Genetics Policy Institute (GPI) launched the World Stem Cell Report in 2008, it was to fill an unmet need. We sought to create a new publication in print and made available digitally that would serve as an accessible benchmark and progress report for the emerging field of regenerative medicine, a tool for understanding the global, societal context to the expanding stem cell ‘multiverse’. GPI has monitored the field since 2003, and 9 years later we find ourselves immersed in a ‘Cambrian Explosion’ of diversity of rich new research data, new commercial ventures, new global collaborations and alliances.

Our 2012 *World Stem Cell Report* aims to provide ‘actionable intelligence’ to the community as part of our mission to enhance societal support, facilitate collaborations and accelerate the march to cures. We explore the nooks and crannies of our burgeoning field by examining trends, shining light onto the controversies and offering balance, inspiration and unique perspectives delivered by an array of international authorities who are experts in their respective disciplines.

The *Report* serves as a roadmap to regenerative medicine in all its aspects; **Research & Development**, spotlighting several key disease categories; **Industry, Commercialization & Collaboration**, providing our annual industry review with a focus on business development and clinical trials and translational challenges; **Policy, Regulation & Ethics**, where we include opinion pieces and commentary relating to the role of the US FDA and others in regulating autologous stem cell treatments and the critical need for cell standardization; in the section relating to **Advocacy & Education**, we provide the insights of leading advocates; and, finally, in the section **Around the World**, we take a country and regional look at stem cell centers around the globe, focusing on the USA, Brazil, Sweden, Canada and the UK.

Our 2012 *World Stem Cell Report* is a supplement to the award-winning Medline- and ISI-listed journal *Regenerative Medicine* (2011 impact factor: 3.7). As a peer-reviewed publication, the *Report* reaches a global audience that includes all the attendees of the 8th Annual World Stem Cell Summit in West Palm Beach, Florida, USA 3–5 December. The Summit is produced by the GPI and co-organized with the Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute (ISCI) of the University of Miami Miller School of

Medicine, Diabetes Research Institute, Beckman Research Institute at City of Hope, Karolinska Institute (home of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine), International Translational Regenerative Medicine Center (ITRC) and the Kyoto University Institute for Integrated Cell-Material Sciences (iCeMS). We believe the *Report* contributes to the collective mission of these wonderful co-organizing institutions and the goals of those assembled for the Summit.

I again thank my esteemed colleagues, Professor Chris Mason, Senior Editor of *Regenerative Medicine*; Elisa Manzotti, Charlotte Barker and the rest of the Future Medicine team for their indispensable contributions to the *Report*.

Societal context and clarity are weapons in the arsenal targeting disease. We must all remember that these powerful technologies discussed in the *Report* hold the promise of delivering actual cures and thus alleviating so much human suffering. This is a mighty quest, a huge lift and an exciting journey. The world awaits. Let's work together to reach our collective goals!

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bernal Siegel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.