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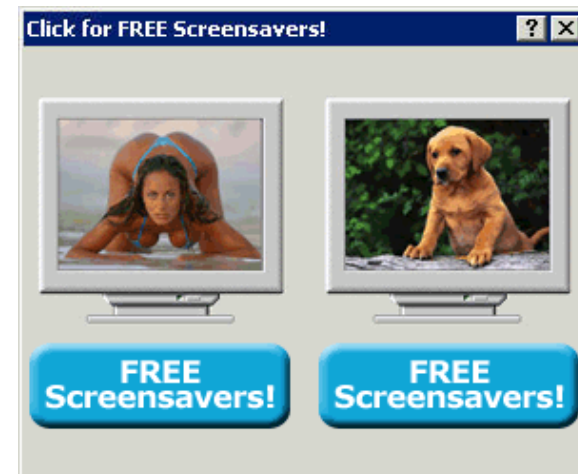
SCIENCE FACT: ECB's Sue Stuart says Edinburgh is leading the way in life sciences research

## City to host £10m stem-cell conferences

JIM STANTON BUSINESS EDITOR ([jstanton@edinburghnews.com](mailto:jstanton@edinburghnews.com))

EDINBURGH is to host two prestigious stem cell conferences as part of a package of new event wins for the Capital worth almost £10 million to the city's economy.

The Capital has been chosen to host the inaugural European Stem Cells Business Summit, which organisers said was in recognition "of Scotland's emergence as a world leader in this major field of research".



And The UK National Stem Cell Network (UKNSCN) has also announced it will hold its first national research conference in Edinburgh in April next year.

Around 700 delegates are expected to attend the two stem cell conferences which are said to be worth around £750,000 to the city's coffers.

However, the two meetings form just two of the latest batch of 16 business conferences that have been won for the city by the Edinburgh Convention Bureau (ECB) - which in total are worth around £9.78m to the local economy and will bring 12,610 delegates to the city.

The latest wins build on the 165 conferences - worth £68.5m - which the ECB secured last year.

Delegates from all corners of the world will converge in Edinburgh for the various business meetings, which range in duration from two to four days and will take place between September this year and May 2009.

Among the other meetings won for the city are the Worldwide Distilled Spirits Conference, the Armed Forces Medical College Conference, and the European Society of Toxicological Pathologists.

But the two stem cell gatherings are seen as valuable wins in terms of prestige for Edinburgh, which is currently the 27th most popular business tourism destination in the world.

The European Stem Cells Business Summit (ESCBS) will bring 400 delegates to Edinburgh next month.

They will discuss topics such as the commercialisation of stem cell research, examine case study experiences from start-up firms in the field and review the bioethics related to the sometimes controversial field.

Delegates are also expected to touch on the regulatory and intellectual property issues covering the life-sciences industry together

with avenues of funding.

The ESCBS will also hear a keynote speech by Professor Ian Wilmut, the director at the Centre for Regenerative Medicine - attached to the University of Edinburgh - who led the team of scientists who created Dolly the Sheep, the world's first cloned mammal.

Also delivering a significant address will be Bernard Siegel, founder of the Florida-based Genetics Policy Foundation (GPI), which leads the global cause in support of stem cell research.

Mr Siegel is a recognised policy expert in the field of stem cell research, regenerative medicine and cloning.

That will be followed up in April next year with the first national research UKNSCN conference, which will bring 300 top scientists to Edinburgh to hear of the latest developments and findings in stem cell research.

Sue Stuart, chief executive of the ECB, said: "Once again Edinburgh and Scotland's pre-eminence in the field of life sciences research has been given national and international recognition in being chosen to host two inaugural conferences that will discuss and highlight the latest developments in stem cell research."

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