JDRF-BMRC Joint Grant Call 2004 - Results

This programme is jointly established and funded by A*STAR's Biomedical Research Council (BMRC) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF) based in the United States. It marks the first research funding collaboration for A*STAR BMRC with a philanthropic organisation and the first for JDRF in Singapore.

The objectives of the programme are twofold. First, it serves to promote the highest quality of biomedical research in human pluripotent stem cells. Second, it aims to expedite the translation of the understanding of cell growth and differentiation in human stem cells to practical applications with an emphasis in generating insulin-producing beta cells for diabetes treatment. Besides stem cell research that pertains to diabetes, projects that study other aspects of stem cell biology will also be considered.

The JDRF-BMRC joint grant call was made earlier this year to invite applications for grants in stem cell research from both public and private research organisations in Singapore. Altogether, 15 grant applications were received and subjected to peer review by local and international reviewers, as well as deliberation by both BMRC and JDRF.

Seven stem cell projects in Singapore will be awarded research funding amounting to almost S$3 million by A*STAR's Biomedical Research Council (BMRC) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF), based in New York, USA. Out of the 7 research projects, 4 are diabetes-related, and three are related to neural disorders. The funding is for a period of up to 2 years.

Type of Grant	Project Title	Principal Investigator	Host Institution
Project Grant	Site-specific vector integration into human embryonic stem cell genomes for gene therapy approaches using lambda integrase	Peter Droge	Nanyang Technological University
Project Grant	Restoring euglycemia in a large animal model of type 1 diabetes mellitus through implantation of autologous hepatocytes engineered for quasi-physiological glucose-regulated insulin secretion	Kon Oi Lian	National Cancer Centre
Project Grant	Notch signaling and control of stem cell differentiation in zebrafish pancreas	Jiang Yun Jin	Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology
Project Grant	Isolation, characterization, and analysis of the reconstructive potential of a unique stem cell of fetal origin in an murine model of Parkinson's Disease	Gerald Udolph	Centre for Molecular Medicine
Project Grant	Differentiation of human stem cells into oligodendrocytes for use in treating demyelinating disease including diabetic neuropathy	Xiao Zhi Cheng	Singapore General Hospital

Project Grant	Generation, isolation and verification of insulin-secreting cells from progenitor cell lines derived from mouse embryos and ES cells	Li Guo Dong	National University of Singapore
Project Grant	Isolation and characterization of homogenous populations of adult neural stem cells for cellular therapy	Philippe Taupin	National Neuroscience Institute