

Stem Cells for Neurological Diseases



Lawrence Goldstein

Director, Stem Cell Clinical Center Scientific Director, Regenerative Medicine Distinguished Professor, Neurosciences

CURRENT RESEARCH

Recreating brain tissue with stem cells for human-driven therapies

Politically, stem cells have been a hot-button issue in the past, but medically they offer the development of promising new therapies for the cure of a number of diseases that have stumped medical professionals to date. Dr. Larry Goldstein of the University of California, San Diego's Stem Cell Program is using stem cells to understand how basic neuronal processes work and is applying that work to discover new drugs and treatments for debilitating neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and ALS. He is tackling difficult problems that have been previously unsolvable, using the newest methods and technologies with stem cells to try and find solutions to these problems. Dr. Goldstein is guided by the hope that the discoveries he makes in his lab related to the fundamental study of stem cells will lead to the development of new drugs that will be tested in novel ways during series of clinical trials. Often, when a drug is set to begin testing, there is an unknown factor related to where to start: What is the proper dosage of the drug? Who is the ideal candidate? Should it be administered early or late in the disease, and continuously or for a brief period? Dr. Goldstein is working to provide that initial baseline with his research. His work on relatively unexplored pathways of stem cells is leading to novel discoveries and therapies for patients with neurological diseases.

Dr. Goldstein is targeting his research to understand the importance of neuronal processes and identify how they fail in a variety of different brain diseases, including Alzheimer's disease, Niemann Pick Type C (a pediatric dementia), and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). He is using the newest technological approaches with human...

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AFFILIATION

 University of California, San Diego

EDUCATION

- B.A. in Biology/Genetics 1976 ,University of California, San Diego
- Ph.D. in Genetics 1980 ,University of Washington
- Postdoctoral Fellow in 1983 ,University of Colorado, Boulder

AWARDS

- Public service award, American Society for Cell Biology
- Loeb Chair in the Natural Sciences, Harvard University
- American Cancer Society Faculty Research Award
- Ellison Medical Foundation Senior Scholar Award in Aging Research

RESEARCH AREAS

Health & Wellness, Longevity, Immortality Research

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will accelerate the rate at which new pathways are uncovered and understood so that drugs can be moved into clinical trials more quickly. Dr. Goldstein is making strides in stem cell research on Alzheimer's disease, but drug development and clinical trials are very expensive. Without proper funding, a drug showing successful results for treatment risks getting stuck in the development process, where it is not being refined and tested for use treating neurological diseases.