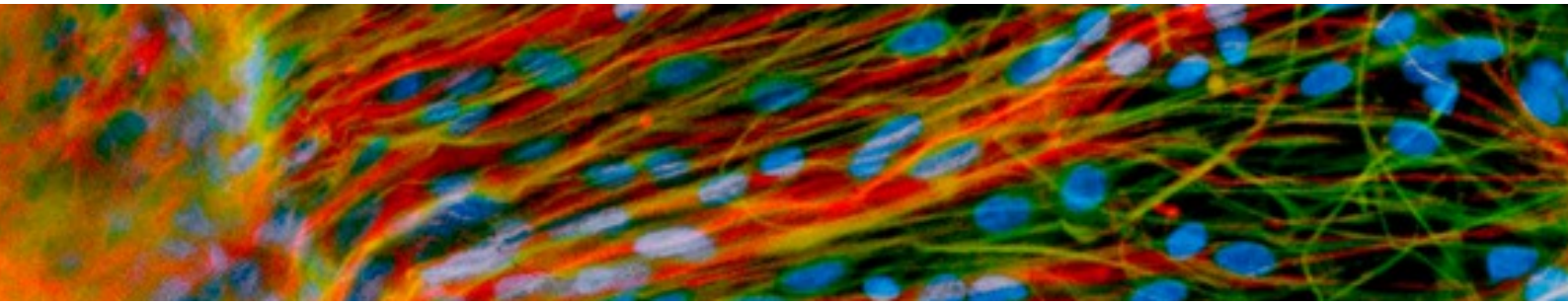
# Seminar
## Centre for Stem Cell Systems



# Limits of patient autonomy and vulnerability in stem cell innovation

### WHEN
Tuesday, 25 July 2017, 4.00 - 5.00pm

### WHERE
Level 5 Seminar Room, Kenneth Myer Building, Melbourne Brain Centre - 30 Royal Parade Parkville

### SPEAKER
**Dr Tamra Lysaght**

Director of Phase III Health Ethics, Law and Professionalism, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine National University of Singapore

### ABSTRACT
Stem cell science and regenerative medicine offers the hope of new therapies to patients suffering chronic and incurable diseases, particularly those who have exhausted all other options. Yet, the history of innovation with stem cells has a chequered history, and outside of the global industry offering unproven stem cell-based interventions, patient access to innovative stem cell treatments is generally restricted to the context of clinical research.

This approach, however, is increasingly being challenged as patients and clinicians demand improved access to innovative stem cell therapies. These demands have generated a discourse claiming that patients have rights to choose treatments that may be beneficial as exercise of personal autonomy; even if evidence that demonstrates the safety and efficacy of the therapy is lacking. Drawing on a case example involving autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation as an innovative treatment for multiple sclerosis, I scrutinize these arguments to defend the ethical permissibility of interference in contexts where the uncertainty of benefit and potential for harm creates vulnerabilities that undermine patient capacity for self-determination.

### SPEAKER BIO
Dr Tamra Lysaght is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Biomedical Ethics at the National University of Singapore. Her research interests lie broadly in the ethical, sociopolitical and regulatory issues surrounding stem cell science and the clinical translation of regenerative medicines and genomics. She has expertise is in empirical bioethics and experience in using both qualitative and quantitative research methods. She has worked on policy issues with the Committee for Ethics, Law and Society of the Human Genome Organisation, the Technical Working Group on Ethics at the World Health Organization, the Translational Clinical Research Programme of the Institute of Mental Health in Singapore, and Singapore Bioethics Advisory Committee. She is currently working on the ethics and regulation of stem cell innovation and translational medicine, genomics and precision medicine, and genome editing.

Event Host: A/Prof Megan Munsie

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**The Centre for Stem Cell Systems is part of the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience, School of Biomedical Sciences**