









The Business of Stem Cells in Australia

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Australian ranks no. 7, quite high up in the list of countries in the business of marketing stem cell therapy, also known as regenerative medicine to the public.

North America, China, India, Mexico and Japan are ahead of us. The question is, do we want to be marketing these therapies to Aussie people, when much of the stem cell therapy on offer is not evidence-based. In 80% 0f cases the stem cells are for muscular skeletal treatment for people with knee injuries and issues.

In 2014, there were 43 medical practitioners in 14 clinics around Australia delivering stem cell therapy. To date there have been many stem cell patient success stories and some less positive outcomes and in all cases the stem cell therapy was safe.

All this information was reported at the Australia Society of Stem Cell Research Conference that took place in Hunter Valley 8-10 October 2014 with a gathering of over 400 professionals keen to progress stem cell research.





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entrepreneurs who have all progressed innovative stem cell science from the lab to the clinic. A first ever review of Stem Cell Companies in Australia was released at this session by the NSW Stem Cell Network and can be viewed on-line at the NSW Stem Cell Network website. www.stemcellnetwork.org.au.

It is well known that Australia's leads in innovation in stem cell science, we fall down on the funding and investment into stem cell and regenerative medicine. The big question is how can the Australian stem cell community access enough public funding as well as private investment to help realise the potential of our innovations?

One key answer is *advocacy* - a passionate stem cell advocate that delivered an insightful talk about the important role of advocacy in driving the progress of regenerative medicine, is Adam Johnston, who lives with cerebral palsy (pictured below).

With advocacy in place, the stem cell community shall become united, with one voice, to tell the story to the public - I believe that's the plan for now...





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