

## **Curing with cells**

### **Kick-off for European large-scale project on imaging in stem cell therapy**

The European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research (EIBIR), located in Vienna, Austria, has taken over the coordination of a European large-scale research project. An international research group from 10 countries will develop imaging technologies and methods in the area of cell therapy. The project, entitled ENCITE (European Network for Cell Imaging and Tracking Expertise), started June 1, 2008.

Currently, there is no single imaging modality that meets the requirements of stem cell therapy. However, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has enormous potential in this regard. Additionally, other imaging methods, especially optical imaging, will be considered in the course of the project.

Within the framework of the project, new MRI imaging methods and biomarkers will be developed and tested in order to get a more comprehensive picture of the cell fate and the reaction of the immune system. Eventually, these are planned to be applied in the treatment of cancer, cardio-vascular diseases and diabetes.

The project is supported by a financial contribution of € 11 m within the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. EIBIR was founded in January 2006 and is a non-profit, limited liability company with more than 200 member institutions from 27 countries

As the project develops, further highly qualified partners will be needed to contribute either research or dissemination and training activities for the newly developed methods. In order to find these partners, a Competitive Call will be launched in the project ENCITE in autumn 2008. Interested institutions can get in contact via e-mail to [office@eibir.org](mailto:office@eibir.org).

#### **Further information:**

EIBIR Office

Neutorgasse 9, 1010 Vienna, Austria

Tel.: +43 (1) 533 40 64 -20

Fax: +43 (1) 535 70 41

[office@eibir.org](mailto:office@eibir.org)

<http://www.eibir.org/>