

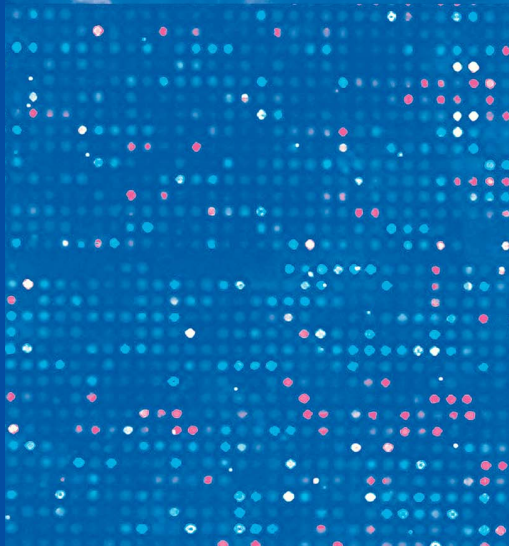
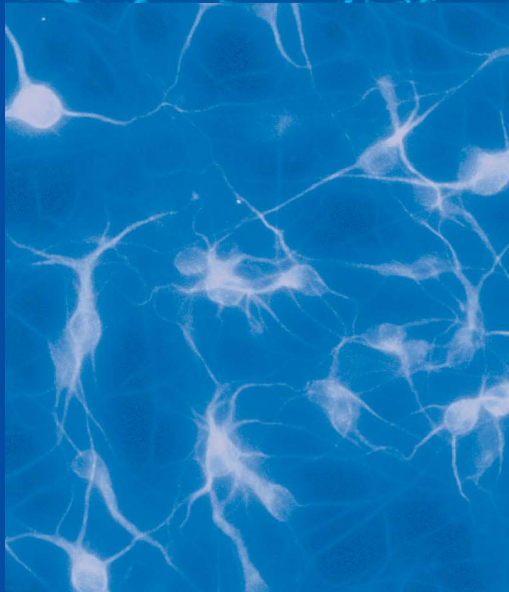
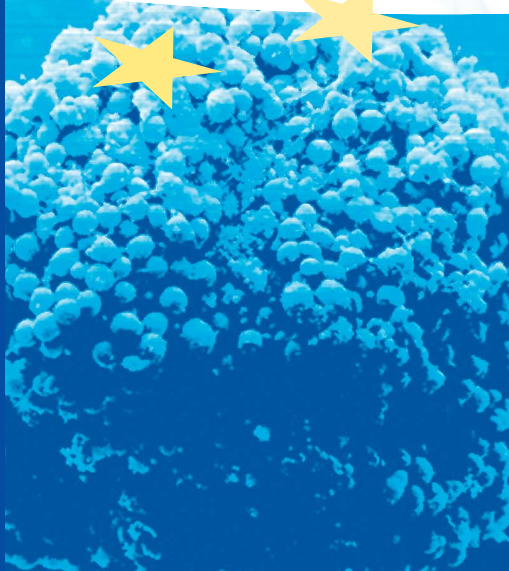


FunGenES

Functional Genomics
in Embryonic
Stem Cells

Partnering on a European Level to Advance Stem Cell Research

www.fungenes.org



FunGenES - "Functional Genomics in Embryonic Stem Cells" assembles distinguished scientists from 18 organisations from industry and academic research across Europe. This pan-European research initiative is set up as an Integrated Project with a budget of about 12 Million Euros, partially funded through the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union.

The FunGenES consortium brings together specialists from Germany, France, Italy, Portugal, Greece and the UK for a period of 3 years to investigate the functional genomics of mouse embryonic stem (ES) cells.

FunGenES will identify the gene subsets which are active at various stages of mouse ES cell differentiation. Its major objective is to produce a gene expression atlas covering the development of ES cells into the various somatic cell types. Understanding the genetic pathways underlying differentiation of ES cells to somatic cells would lead to the development of therapeutic strategies to "repair" damaged or diseased organs as an alternative to transplantation. More specifically, the consortium's objectives include:

- Developing a detailed understanding of embryonic stem cell self-renewal, differentiation and lineage commitment to different organ-specific cells, including the identification of potential novel target genes for therapeutic intervention
- Deriving new cellular and molecular tools to allow characterisation of gene function in tissue-specific cell populations (Functional Genomics)
- Developing new embryonic stem cell-based methods for high throughput screening of small candidate molecules for therapeutic applications in human diseases.

