

## Gene and Stem Cell Therapies Successes Advance across Europe



### CliniGene-FP6 NoE Press Release Draft

Executive Committee Meeting in Paris (January 2011)  
Annual International Symposium (April 2011)

A European network of top scientists, clinicians and ethicists from across Europe have come together over the past 5 years to press forward the new medical discipline of Gene Therapy, and its use in the development of Stem Cell Therapy. The so-called "*CliniGene*" *Network of Excellence for the Advancement of Clinical Gene Transfer and Therapy* is funded by the European Commission, and over its 5 year lifetime, members of the Clinigene community have been involved in clinical trials for the treatment of many rare inherited diseases and several common acquired diseases for which no current cures exist, including inherited blindness, Parkinson disease, Alzheimer disease, muscular dystrophy, and several blood cell disorders such as immunodeficiencies and anemias.

Many new technologies have also been pioneered by Clinigene members to develop revolutionary approaches using genetic material and harnessing viruses to bring the medical discipline of gene and stem cell therapy from the laboratory bench to the hospital bedside.

Furthermore, these new exciting and powerful medical technologies bring with them new and complex dilemmas in medical ethics and medicines regulation. Clinigene has been in the vanguard of addressing these socio-medical problems, by organising stakeholder and public consultations and meetings to map out the issues involved, and ensure ethical and regulatory scrutiny of new gene therapies are adequate and uniformly applied across the EU.

The Clinigene technology, clinical and ethics platforms have collaborated extensively with nearly 400 scientific studies published in outstanding medical or scientific journals. This golden age for the emerging discipline of Gene and Cell Therapy, spearheaded by Clinigene, is culminating in 7-9<sup>th</sup> April with an international meeting at France's Natural History Museum in Paris to present and discuss the state-of-the-art, and the most recent clinical successes.