



The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute

Submission

The International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR)

Support for Bid for ISSCR Annual Meeting 2025 Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute 香港公司治理公會

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability by guarantee)

3/F, Hong Kong Diamond Exchange Building, 8 Duddell Street, Central, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2881 6177

E: ask@hkcg.org.hk

W: hkcg.org.hk

29 September 2022

Professor Kathryn Cheah

Chairperson, Bid Committee
ISSCR Annual Meeting 2025 Hong Kong
c/o School of Biomedical Sciences
The University of Hong Kong
Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Dear Professor Cheah,

Re: Support for Bid for International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) Annual Meeting 2025 Hong Kong

About HKCGI

The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute (**Institute**), formerly known as The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries, is the only qualifying institution in Hong Kong and the Mainland of China for the internationally recognised Chartered Secretary and Chartered Governance Professional qualifications.

With over 70 years of history and as the Hong Kong/China Division of The Chartered Governance Institute (**CGI**), the Institute's reach and professional recognition extend to all of CGI's nine divisions, with more than 40,000 members and students worldwide. The Institute is one of the fastest growing divisions of CGI, with a current membership of over 6,800, 300 graduates and 3,000 students with significant representations within listed companies and other cross industry governance functions.

Believing that better governance leads to a better future, HKCGI's mission is to promote good governance in an increasingly complex world and to advance leadership in the effective governance and efficient administration of commerce, industry and public affairs. As recognised thought leaders in our field, the Institute educates and advocates for the highest standards in governance and promotes an expansive approach which takes account of the interests of all stakeholders.

Support for Hong Kong's Bid for ISSCR Annual Meeting 2025

We strongly support the proposed bid for the ISSCR Annual Meeting 2025 in Hong Kong.

We understand that the event will be co-organised by The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. This is the first time these three top local universities converge to host this significant event, where an estimated 4,500 participants, ranging from investors, renowned scientists, industry players, educators, ethicists, and business leaders from 80 countries, would come together and exchange ideas.

The impact on Hong Kong's research and development in biomedicine and the bio-pharmaceutical industry will be significant. The event will also serve as a bridge between Mainland China, the Asia Pacific Region, and the rest of the world. Additionally, it will propel Hong Kong toward its goal of becoming an international centre in biomedicine.

Hong Kong's solid position

Aside from the strategic appeal to researchers from our neighbouring cities and a wealth of stem cell talent from Hong Kong, Mainland China and overseas, Hong Kong is in a solid position to host the ISSCR Annual Meeting 2025. It has the ability to the necessary infrastructure to host a conference of scale. Also, it has experiences including from the recent hosting of *The Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society, The Asian-Pacific Chapter* (TERMIS-AP, 2023) and *The Second International Summit on Human Genome Editing* in 2018.

Further, under the leadership of The Hong Kong University and The Chinese University of Hong Kong, there are two InnoHK Centres at the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park, which focus on stem cell research. These two centres attract a wealth of global stem cell researchers and postgraduate students. With cross-border research collaborations between Hong Kong and Mainland China anticipated to be back at full strength later this year, it is time for Hong Kong and ISSCR to work together on the ISSCR Annual Meeting 2025 in Hong Kong.

The governance perspective

From the governance perspective, our members will undoubtedly form part of the ecosystem for developing governance best practices for related value-chain activities and industries. The hosting of the ISSCR Annual Meeting 2025 is also consistent with the position of Hong Kong as an international financial centre, which our Institute actively promotes. Accordingly, our Institute looks forward to becoming a long-term collaborator to contribute to other important projects in the biomedicine and bio-pharmaceutical areas.

If you require further support from our Institute, please contact me, Ellie Pang FCG HKFCG(PE), Institute Chief Executive, or Mohan Datwani FCG HKFCG(PE), Institute Deputy Chief Executive.

Yours sincerely,

For and on behalf of

The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute



Ernest Lee FCG HKFCG(PE)
President