

COLORADO

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

TUESDAY 27 MARCH 2007

at the Wynkoop Brewing Company

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18th and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver
About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.

STEM CELLS: Hype or Hope?

Clearing Away the Confusion

Curt R. Freed, MD

Head, Division of Clinical Pharmacology
Director, Neurotransplantation Program for Parkinson's Disease
University of Colorado Medical School

"My current job description," says Curt Freed, "is to convert embryonic stem cells to dopamine neurons to transplant into patients with Parkinson's disease." In 1988, with neurosurgical colleague Robert Breeze, M.D., Curt Freed performed the first transplant of human fetal dopamine cells into a Parkinson patient in the United States. That patient, even a dozen years post transplant, showed improvement in his Parkinson's disease. To date, the group have performed more than 70 fetal dopamine cell implant surgeries in humans. Success has only been limited, though, perhaps because the cells used are not real *pluripotent* stem cells, and may not survive for long periods. Are the new amniotic stem cells the answer? "All these stem cell types are on the table," Freed has said. "But embryonic stem cells are the only cells that have as their natural fate [the ability to generate] *all* the tissues in the body."

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. The discussion starts at 6:30 in the Mercantile Room (no food service there). Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.

There's no charge. The Wynkoop is generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks. It is first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** so that everyone can take part in the discussion.

The Colorado Café Scientifique is organized by an informal group of President's Teaching Scholars and faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as science fans from industry, government and elsewhere. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to John.Cohen@UCHSC.edu

Essential information on our Web site at <http://CafeSciColorado.org>