

Editorial

Stem Cells and Nuclear Reprogramming

**Fuliang Du,¹ Mark G. Carter,² Giorgio A. Presicce,³
Shinn-Chih Wu,⁴ and Perng-Chih Shen⁵**

¹ *Renova Life Inc., University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA*

² *Center for Regenerative Biology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT 06269, USA*

³ *Consorzio di Ricerca e Sperimentazione per gli Allevatori (CRSA), 00161 Rome, Italy*

⁴ *Department of Animal Science and Technology, National Taiwan University, Taipei 106, Taiwan*

⁵ *Department of Animal Science, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Pingtung 912, Taiwan*

Correspondence should be addressed to Fuliang Du, fuliangd@renovalife.com

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Stem cells are found in all multicellular organisms, including two broadly defined cell types: embryonic stem cells (ESC) (C. Y. Cheong and T. Lufkin; and N. Lifantseva et al.) that are derived from the inner cell mass of blastocyst-stage embryos and adult stem cells that are present in adult tissues (C. M. Teven et al., R. Chung et al., and A. C. Wilber et al.). Nuclear reprogramming refers to the erasure and remodeling of epigenetic marks, which is a part of normal mammalian development. This reprogramming is likely required for totipotency of the newly formed embryo and erasure of acquired epigenetic changes (Felici). Advances in stem cells including induced pluripotent stem (IPS) cells (D. Dey and G. R. D. Evans; and P. Noisa and R. Parnpai) and nuclear reprogramming (C. M. Teven et al.) will provide new insights into the mechanisms of cellular differentiation, during embryonic development (N. Lifantsevaa et al.) as well as in adult tissues (C. M. Teven et al.), and their pluripotency (A. C. Wilber et al.), which may lead to cell-based therapies (R. Eggen-schwiler et al.) for several human diseases (R. Chung et al.).

*Fuliang Du
Mark G. Carter
Giorgio A. Presicce
Shinn-Chih Wu
Perng-Chih Shen*