

Media Release / Invitation
Melbourne, 3rd June, 2008

Science in the Cinema - Towards the Perfect Human SCIENCE AND HOLLYWOOD MEET AT THE MOVIES

For decades Hollywood has shaped public perceptions of science

Panelist Dr Andrew Laslett from the Australian Stem Cell Centre says, "Science in the Cinema will give us an opportunity to explore the many questions and issues raised in the community about medical research. We cannot underestimate the enormous advances that have taken place in the field of medical research over the past few decades. This is a great opportunity for us to present our case as to why our work on stem cells and genetics is important."

"The night will allow us to compare what Andrew Nichol predicted in 1997 with "Gattaca" and what has actually occurred over the last decade. There are some techniques portrayed in Gattaca that are quite realistic as well as some that aren't and will never be. There are also other methods available to us that weren't even dreamed of in 1997."

Three Australian scientists will attend the ASMR Gattaca film screening to discuss the depiction of biological sciences, ethics and realistic possibilities suggested in movie plots.

Hosted by **Dr Andi Horvath** alongside an expert scientific panel featuring

- **Dr Andrew Laslett** - Australian Stem Cell Centre
- **Dr Andrew Holloway** - Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute
- **Dr Daniel MacArthur** - Institute of Neuromuscular Research

When: **Tuesday 3rd June**, 2008, at 6.30pm

Where: **Storey Hall, RMIT Building 16**, 342 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Free of charge and open to the public

To interview Dr Andrew Laslett or for more information please contact Shahan Campbell on 043 311 3454.