



Regenerative Medicine: New Stem Cell Fix

McEwen Centre for Regenerative Medicine Director Dr. [Gordon Keller](#) and colleagues have identified the human equivalent of a well-known mouse locus that will open new directions for studying human development while also providing a source of cells for replacement therapy.

Using a series of orchestrated molecular tests, the study identified the human equivalent of the *Rosa26* locus in mice—the site used to introduce foreign genes into the genome—and confirmed that the inserted pieces of DNA were functional.

“This human locus has the same ‘plug-and-play’ capabilities as have been used in the mouse analogue for many years. It will enable us to assess the effects of novel genes in human embryonic stem cells, dramatically expanding our ability to manipulate these for medical purposes,” says Dr. Keller.

Nat Biotechnol. 2007 Dec. 25(12):1477-82 . [[Pubmed abstract](#)]. Research supported by the National Institutes of Health.