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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION AWARDS 21 TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS TO ATTEND THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH ANNUAL MEETING IN TORONTO**

(NEW YORK, NY – June 29, 2006) – The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) has granted New York Stem Cell Foundation Junior Investigator Travel Awards to twenty-one young scientists from around the world. These travel fellowships are enabling the scientists to attend the fourth International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) annual meeting in Toronto from June 29 to July 1. The ISSCR conference brings together many of the leading figures in the field of stem cell research.

“We believe it is crucial to cultivate the next generation of stem cell researchers,” said Susan L. Solomon, chief executive officer of NYSCF. “We’re pleased to be able to help this particular group of impressive, young scientists bring their ideas and energy to the ISSCR’s gathering of the world’s best minds in the area of stem cell research.”

“These fellowships reflect the New York Stem Cell Foundation’s deep commitment to advancing stem cell research, both in the short-term by privately funding research initiatives and educational efforts and in the years to come by encouraging young scientists to continue in this critical area of scientific endeavor,” said Dr. Gordon M. Keller, ISSCR president.

The New York Stem Cell Foundation Junior Investigator Travel Awards recipients are: Daniel Blashki and Sebastian Dworkin of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in East Melbourne, Australia; David T. Breault of Children’s Hospital Boston; Sophia Bruggeman of the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam; Shahar Cohen of Technion Israel in Kiryat Motzkin, Israel; Ignacio Flores of CNIO in Madrid, Spain; Hui Theng Gan of the Centre for Molecular Medicine in Singapore; Alice Gerrits of the University of Groningen in Groningen, The Netherlands; Renee Gordon and Elena Vazey of the University of Auckland in New Zealand; Susan M. Hawes of the Monash University Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne, Australia; Yohei Hayashi of Tokyo; Karolina Lundin and Milla Mikkola of the University of Helsinki in Finland; Gaelle Chopin Stukart-Parsons of Israelita Ensino E Pesquisa in Cotia, Brazil; Hui Min Tan of Singapore; Josef Wagner of the Murdoch Institute in North Melbourne, Australia; Raymond Ching-Bong Wong of the Monash University Institute of Medical Research/Australian Stem Cell Centre in Clayton, Australia; Manoj Kumar of National Brain Research Centre in Gurgaon, India; Anees Fatima of L.V.Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India; and Sanna-Maria Hede of Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

**About The New York Stem Cell Foundation**

Founded in 2005, the New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) is a privately-funded initiative dedicated to furthering human embryonic stem cell research to advance the search for cures of the major diseases of our time. The foundation created its first privately-funded laboratory in May 2006 to serve as a “safe haven” where scientists from academic medical centers in the New York area and throughout the East Coast can conduct advanced human embryonic stem cell research free of the federal restrictions that limit the scope of government-supported work. The organization’s missions are to create state-of-the-art collaborative research laboratories supported entirely with private funds, to educate the public about the importance and potential benefits of human embryonic stem cell research (hESC) and somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), and to support stem cell research through grants to scientists working in their own labs, fellowships, symposia and journals. For more information, please visit [www.nyscf.org](http://www.nyscf.org).

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