

From: THE NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION APPLAUDS GOVERNOR SPITZER'S CRITICAL ALLOCATION OF \$100 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING FOR VITAL STEM CELL INITIATIVE**

***A Commitment to Making New York a Stem Cell Research Leader***

NEW YORK, NY (January 31, 2007) – The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) today lauded Governor Eliot Spitzer and Lieutenant-Governor David Paterson's decision to include \$100 million in capital funding in their proposed 2007-08 executive budget to help launch an ambitious stem cell research initiative. NYSCF leadership praised the budget allocation as an important initial investment in one of the most promising areas of scientific endeavor, research that holds the potential to improve our understanding of major diseases and lead to better treatments and, ultimately, cures. The organization stated that it looked forward to a productive public-private partnership to accelerate stem cell research in New York.

“Governor Spitzer and Lieutenant-Governor Paterson's quick and decisive action demonstrates their deep commitment to ensuring that New York becomes the leader in stem cell research,” said Susan L. Solomon, CEO and co-founder of the New York Stem Cell Foundation. “There is no more important area of scientific endeavor in the effort to help the millions of Americans impacted by the worst diseases of our time. In addition to its clinical significance, this science has the potential to be an important economic driver for our state. We share the Administration's vision of New York as a global capital of stem cell science.”

“The governor's actions send a clear message to those working in New York's labs -- this state is committed to supporting the most advanced and innovative scientific research,” said NYSCF Scientific Advisor Kevin Eggan. “In the coming years, state funding of stem cell research will undoubtedly attract more great scientific minds to New York.”

“State money, while not a total solution to the urgent need for funding, would serve as a tremendous catalyst in moving stem cell science forward far more rapidly,” added Solomon. “Private philanthropy will continue to play a critical and necessary role. It has the capability to help shape research priorities and provide supplemental funds for government-supported research projects. And it will, as it always has, make possible cutting-edge research initiatives that do not receive government funding.”

## About The New York Stem Cell Foundation:

Founded in 2005, the New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) is a privately funded foundation dedicated to furthering human embryonic stem cell research to advance the search for cures of the major diseases of our time. The foundation opened the first privately-funded human embryonic stem cell laboratory in New York in March 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 support scientists engaged in human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research and somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), through grants, fellowships and symposia; to educate the public about the importance and potential benefits of human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research and somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT); and to establish new collaborative, state-of-the-art research facilities supported entirely with private funds and directly focused on curing disease.

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