



From: **THE NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION COMMITS MORE THAN \$5 MILLION  
IN FELLOWSHIPS FOR NEW YORK SCIENTISTS ENGAGED IN HUMAN  
EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH**

**A Significant Private Investment in the Effort to Train the Next Generation of Stem  
Cell Scientists**

NEW YORK, NY (June 28, 2007) – The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF), a privately funded non-profit organization dedicated to furthering human embryonic stem cell research, will award research fellowships totaling more than \$5 million, it was announced today by Susan L. Solomon, NYSCF CEO and co-founder. The fellowships are part of NYSCF's ongoing commitment to training a new generation of human embryonic stem cell researchers. This program is significantly supported by a generous gift from Stanley and Fiona Druckenmiller.

Each of the New York-based scientists will receive funding to support their research initiatives. They will have access to NYSCF's "safe haven" laboratory in Manhattan, where they will be able to conduct their research and receive training in Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) and other advanced techniques. The fellows will also be given the opportunity to present their research findings at NYSCF's annual Translational Stem Cell Research Conference. This year's conference will be held on October 15 and 16 at Rockefeller University in New York City.

"Millions of Americans affected by Parkinson's, Type 1 diabetes, Alzheimer's, heart disease, ALS and other devastating diseases are waiting for answers that human embryonic stem cell research has the potential to provide in the coming years," said Solomon. "This remarkable group of young researchers represents the best and brightest in the field of scientists who search for those answers every day."

The New York Stem Cell Foundation Fellows are applying human embryonic stem cell technologies towards the development of therapeutics for a variety of medical conditions. The 2007 fellows, who will each receive funding for a three-year period, are: cell replacement therapies for Parkinson's Disease;

- **Keiichi Inoue, PhD**, originally from Osaka, Japan, working with Dr. Asa Abeliovich of Columbia University, is exploring midbrain dopamine neuron developmental regulation, potentially yielding crucial insight into cell replacement therapies for Parkinson's Disease;
- **Daylon James, PhD**, from New York City, working with Dr. Shahin Rafii of Weill Cornell, is driving human embryonic stem cells to become endothelial tissue that could be useful in vascular regeneration;
- **Sriram Bandi, PhD**, originally from Hyderabad, India, working with Dr. Sanjeev Gupta of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is deriving liver cells from human embryonic stem cells for eventual transplant;

- **Darja Marolt, PhD**, originally from Ljubljana, Slovenia, working with Dr. Gordana Vunjak-Novakovic of Columbia University, is attempting to engineer bone tissue using human embryonic stem cells for wound engraftment.

These fellows join **Elena Ezhkova, PhD**, the 2006 New York Stem Cell Foundation Fellow, originally from Moscow, who is working with Dr. Elaine Fuchs of Rockefeller University, doing promising research on skin stem cells.

In response to The New York Stem Cell Foundation's support of Elena Ezhkova's work, Rockefeller University President Paul Nurse, PhD, said, "I applaud the New York Stem Cell Foundation for its efforts to increase support for embryonic stem cell research, and for encouraging collaborative partnerships to accelerate progress in this highly promising area of investigation. These studies may hold the key to curing many of the major diseases of our time, and I wholeheartedly endorse the foundation's mission and work."

"We are truly excited about the high quality of fellows we selected from what was a very impressive pool of applicants," said Ruth Lehmann, PhD, a member of NYSCF's Medical Advisory Board and Director of the Skirball Center and the Kimmel Stem Cell Institute who took part in the selection process. "We look forward to seeing the fruits of their research during these next three years and beyond."

"Private philanthropy needs to lead the way by creating the programs that give promising scientists incentives to pursue this vitally important area of endeavor," added Solomon. "We are delighted to provide the resources that will support the work of these outstanding scientists."

### **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 Foundation convenes an annual Translational Stem Cell Research Conference at which researchers present the latest advances in the field; this year's conference will be held October 15-16, 2007 at Rockefeller University. The organization's mission is: 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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